



No 61.169

## £250m loss on oil for each \$1 fall

Mr. Jack Bruce-Gardyne, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, revealed that for every \$1 fall in the price of a barrel of North Sea oil the Government's tax take would be reduced by between £250m and £300m this year. The price of the oil, he said, in a constituency speech in Cheshire, had fallen by \$1.50 since the beginning of the year.

## Amersham sale inquiry doubts

Whitehall's embarrassment over the sale of Amersham International has grown with doubts over the possibility of an internal inquiry into the deal, which is said to have left the Treasury with £20m less than it could have raised.

## Ban on Plessey sit-in lifted

A court order for Plessey workers to end a sit-in at their Radgate factory was overturned at Edinburgh Court of Session. It was ruled that the Trade Union and Industrial Relations Act, 1974 could legalize such sit-ins.



## British boxer cancels fight

Appendicitis forced Colin Jones to pull out of his European welterweight title contest with the Dane Hans Henrik Palm in Copenhagen last night. Palm fought Georges Warusfel, the veteran French champion, instead.

## Anger over tin price fall

As tin prices continued falling on the London Metal Exchange, dealers questioned the motives of a mystery buyer, who until the start of the week, had been supporting the market.

## Adventure aid for jobless

Adventure courses for up to 10,000 young people are to be provided by the Ministry of Defence to combat the boredom of unemployment. The scheme, to be offered through local service recruitment offices, will consist largely of outdoor pursuits.

## Fleet Holdings set for launch

Dealings in the shares of Fleet Holdings, which includes Express Newspapers, are expected to start next Thursday after details were published of its separation from Trafalgar House, the parent group. The new company will not include Trafalgar's half share in the Standard, the London evening newspaper.

## Ankara regime hits at left

Leading members of an international organization have been rounded up in Turkey in a new clamp-down by the military authorities. The principal defence lawyer of 52 detained left-wing trade union officials is among those held.

## Tanzanian jet hijacked

Unidentified hijackers diverted an Air Tanzania Boeing 737 with 99 passengers bound for Victoria, where they threatened to blow it up if it was not refuelled.

Letters: On caning judgment, from Mr. Edward Baker; just challenges, from Leslie; Mr. Thorpe and Amnesty, from Mr. David Astor and others. Leading articles: compulsory youth service; BBC features, page 4.

The new man at the head of Mr. Thatcher's think tank; nursing trade at the White House; will Baldwin find a place in the House?

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# Whitelaw acts to stem overcrowding in prisons

By Peter Evans and Anthony Bevins

The Government is to introduce a new system of sentencing in the face of a worsening prison crisis which has seen the number of prisoners in Britain rise from 40,900 in December to 43,764 yesterday.

The rise plus the need to use police and court cells in London as a emergency measure and two recent clashes with prison officers have alarmed ministers.

Now a parliamentary order laid down yesterday means courts will be able to impose partially-suspended sentences on offenders aged 21 and over for sentences of six months to two years.

Partial suspension will involve between a quarter and three-quarters of the sentence, which means that a person sentenced to two years may, after one-third remission, serve only four months in jail.

Similarly, someone sentenced to six months may have 41 months of the sentence suspended, less a further half month on remission and serve only one month.

If the offender is later convicted of another imprisonable offence, committed during the period of licensed release, the court can reactivate the suspended part of the previous sentence.

The move comes five months after a warning by Mr. William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, that a record prison population of 46,000 by the spring was "all too possible".

Even if courts have responded to calls to reduce sentence lengths, police have given a warning of an increase in some serious crimes in the last part of the year and good intentions are being overwhelmed by sheer numbers.

The police and court cells have been used to take over spill from getting London jails while emergency repairs are done. Nearly 150 cell spaces were used between January 29 and February 3. Seventeen prisoners were being held at the inner London Crown Court on February 22, the latest figure available.

One sign of the way that tension can explode was at Brixton prison on January 25 when three prisoners, one armed with a razor, barricaded themselves into two cells and hydraulic jacks were used to unjam the doors. A prisoner and three officers were injured.

## SDP council calls in Acas to end strike by 1,500 workers

By Richard Evans

Leaders of Britain's only SDP-controlled local authority called in the Arbitration, Conciliation and Advisory Service last night to try to solve an increasingly acrimonious dispute involving about 1,500 striking council employees.

The private and informal discussions between Islington Borough Council and officials of the parent group, the new company will not include Trafalgar's half share in the Standard, the London evening newspaper.

Council leaders yesterday gave The Times a notebook discovered recently in Islington town hall, which they say records recent Nalgo branch meetings and details tactics the union could take in confrontation with the council.

Mr. Gerry Southgate, deputy leader of the council, said: "With other evidence and what we have been told of various meetings, it shows there is an attempt to create a widespread industrial action in Islington before the May local elections because the SDP is in charge, in order to influence the results and to dis-

credit, through Islington, the SDP at a national level". The dispute began two weeks ago when an employee was transferred to a job which was withdrawn when he refused to take it. Although that has been settled, industrial action escalated when the council proposed not to reopen a children's home temporarily shut by the original strike.

Seven children in care have been looked after by volunteers in make shift accommodation since Wednesday night. Mr. James Evans, leader of the council said yesterday he was attacked after about 100 demonstrators massed outside the temporary accommodation last night.

Mr. Southgate said: "There are a few people in an important position in the union who are determined to have a go at the SDP. They have managed to persuade a vast number of people to join the union who are acting in an outrageous way, which I do not think we are".

The local Nalgo branch decided yesterday to continue the industrial action. The dispute has been made official. Mr. James Evans, the branch president, strongly denied last night that the union's action was aimed at the SDP. He said the notebook discovered by the council did not represent the formal minutes of branch meetings. "Our objective is to win a pay rise, not to cause industrial action with the staff at all".

Mr. Evans said his members had dealt with council led by three different political groups over the last year and they would oppose any administration they felt was not negotiating through the normal channels.

## Brixton report does not aid thugs, says Scarman

By a Staff Reporter

Lord Scarman yesterday defended himself against criticism made by a senior Scotland Yard officer and said that his report on last year's Brixton riots did not make it more difficult for the police to combat crime.

## Amnesty move to oust Thorpe

By Michael Horsnell

A move to oust Mr. Jeremy Thorpe, the former Liberal leader, from his £14,000-a-year job as director of Amnesty International's British section will be made at a meeting in London today of the organization's 25-member council.

This follows growing resentment amongst Amnesty's 15,000 members throughout the country and anger amongst the 11-strong staff at his appointment earlier this month.

An emergency resolution calling for the appointment to be rescinded is expected to be tabled at the meeting, which has been specially moved from Amnesty's headquarters in Southampton Street to St. Martin-in-the-Fields Church, London, because of the volume of protest.

This unprecedented move in the often stormy affairs of Amnesty, which campaigns for the release of prisoners of conscience, follows a week in which at least 170 letters of complaint were received.

Staff expressed their "apprehension at the increasing level of protest from the membership" and they have been backed by Amnesty's trade union liaison committee, sending more than 40 affiliated unions, which has registered its "grave concern" to the chairman of the British section, Frenchman Roger Briot.

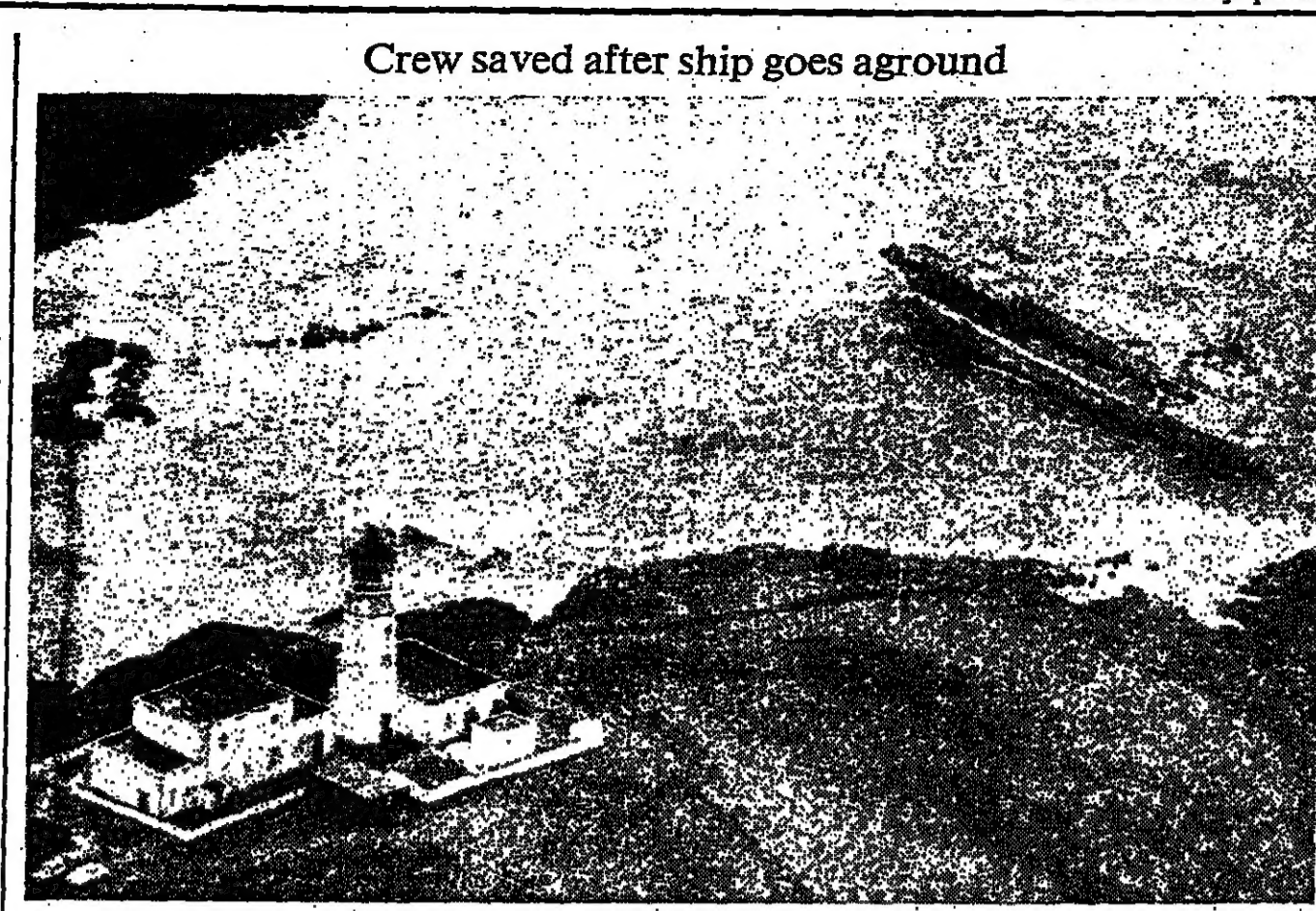
The level of the protest has forced the council to place its members and groups to make representations to the council. He was unavailable for comment yesterday, but council members and staff believe that he will be tempted to resign if a resolution against Mr. Thorpe, who is due to part with the selection of the former MP M. Briot, is carried. After the March 10, is carried. After the selection of the former MP M. Briot, is carried. After the selection of the former MP M. Briot, is carried.

Any decision will cause a split in the Amnesty ranks, as a number of members have indicated that they will quit if Mr. Thorpe remains.

Mr. Thorpe, who has been in the spotlight since his arrest in 1979 after being acquitted of a conspiracy to murder Mr. Norman Scott, the former male model, is, because of previous misadventures, widely regarded as unsuitable to hold the post of director of an organization which requires a reputation of massability integrity in its efforts to uphold human rights against abuse.

Mr. Thorpe is not expected to attend today's council meeting. He was available for comment last night.

Letters, page 5



A Royal Navy Sea King helicopter winched the 11-man crew of the 800-ton Craigantlet to safety yesterday after the container ship ran aground in heavy seas at Blackhead Point on the Galloway coast of Scotland.

## Australian dockers accused of tax fiddle

Canberra, Feb. 26.—Members of an Australian dockers' union were guilty of hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of tax evasion, perpetrated extensive social-security frauds, and were involved in crimes ranging from theft to murder, according to the findings of an official inquiry.

A Royal Commission, which has been investigating the Ship Painters and Dockers Union for nearly two years, presented an interim report to Parliament last night.

The report concentrated on tax evasion. It said that four cases involved non-payment of more than \$2m (£1.2m), and that "there are hundreds of such cases".

A claim in the report that the Taxation Department had been reluctant to place its officers in "any kind of physical jeopardy" by letting them give evidence before the Commission was denied by Mr. Bill O'Reilly, the Tax Commissioner.

The Commission said that, when it asked the Deputy Tax Commissioner for Victoria to attend its offices for discussions, "great reluctance was shown by him and there was talk of concrete boots".

The report added that companies involved in the tax evasion schemes appointed members of the union to their boards because of their ability to provide false identities, and because of their violent reputations.

Mr. Nicholas, the union's Victoria secretary, was found shot dead in his car last June, after he had failed to give evidence to the Commission. An inquest found that he had committed suicide.—Reuter.

## Caned schoolgirl awarded £1,200

By Lucy Hodges

A girl, aged 14, who was beaten by her headmistress and as a result developed a fear of her buttocks, has been awarded £1,200 in a settlement reached by the European Commission of Human Rights.

The report of the settlement between the girl's mother and the British Government has not yet been made public but it reveals that the Government is to send out a circular letter to education authorities next week telling them that the use of corporal punishment may in certain circumstances be contrary to Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

That article says that no one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. The Government also agreed to pay the girl's mother more than £1,000 in legal costs.

Mr. Tom Scott, education secretary of St. George's, the Society of Teachers Opposed to Physical Punishment, said last night that the settlement was another blow to the Government from Strasbourg. On Thursday the European Court of Human Rights found against the United Kingdom in cases brought by two mothers in Scotland about the use of the tawse.

"This is just another case that will surely bring home to the Government that they have got to ban corporal punishment because they will not get out of it so easily on future occasions," he said.

There are a number of other complaints filed in Strasbourg in which Scottish and English children have been beaten and where parents allege a breach of Article 3. The reason why "a friendly settlement" be-

## BBC scents victory in breakfast TV race

By Kenneth Gosling

The BBC is expected to beat independent television to the launch of a breakfast service by a clear month if TV-AM has to stick to the May, 1983 starting date laid down by the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

Mr. Peter Jay, TV-AM's chairman, is urging the authority to allow his company to launch breakfast television next winter, the earliest date it can be ready.

The BBC's board of governors, which met last Thursday, is understood to have agreed to proposals by Mr. Alastair Milne, director-general designate, which would allow the BBC to begin morning broadcasting at Easter next year, which falls in the first week of April.

Estimates have put the cost to the BBC at £5m a year, most of which would be met by economies in other areas of broadcasting.

One of the likely candidates to present the BBC's new morning programme is Terry Wogan, who is to host a new mid-week chat show this summer.

## Trapped by a voice print

Kenneth Peeverley, unemployed, of Adamstown, Cardiff, was put on probation for a year at Cardiff Crown Court for burglary. When he broke into an office he knocked over a dictating machine which switched itself on, and the police recognized his voice when he muttered to himself.

## UN sending 1,000 more troops to Lebanon

From Zoriana Pysarski, New York, Feb. 26

The United Nations is to send another 1,000 peace-keeping troops to southern Lebanon after threats of an Israeli invasion and fighting between Palestinians and Lebanese Christians.

The extra soldiers, expected to be from France and Fiji, are to land within days to reinforce the 6,000 already in the area.

The Security Council last night agreed to bolster the force, but failed to accede to Lebanon's request that the troops be given more powers to restore order.

Behind the Lebanese request is a desire to restore its sovereignty in the area, although threats of an Israeli invasion to clear Palestinian enclaves have given new urgency to efforts to defuse the crisis.

It is considered here that the extra troops will be a possible deterrent to an Israeli invasion. The peace-keeping forces cannot, under their present mandate, control military activity of the Palestine Liberation Organization or that of Major Saad Haddad's Christian militia.

Beirut: Mr. Philip Habib, President Reagan's special Middle East envoy, met President Sarkis of Lebanon this evening after warnings that Israel was poised to invade. It was his fifth mission on the Lebanese crisis. He helped to negotiate a ceasefire between the combatants last July.—A.P.

## US fears Soviet block debt crisis

By Bailey Morris in Washington and Peter Wilson-Smith

Romania's failure to meet a scheduled payment of \$5.8m (£3.1m) to the United States Government is bringing new fears in Washington that a deepening financial crisis in Eastern Europe which could put severe strains on the international monetary system.

A senior United States Treasury Department official said yesterday that Reagan Administration is concerned that the crisis in Poland is having a domino-like effect on the rest of the Soviet bloc.

The ill effects are resulting in a virtual drying up of private bank lending to Eastern Europe, the official said.

This raises the strong possibility that other financially pressed countries such as Yugoslavia and even East Germany could experience severe liquidity problems in the months ahead.

The situation is being closely watched here, an administration official said. He disclosed that a joint team of State Department and Treasury Department officials has been formed to monitor developments.

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## Carrington praises Zimbabwe's stability

From Michael Hornsby Salisbury, Feb 26

Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, will leave Zimbabwe tomorrow at the end of his first visit since independence, convinced of the country's stability despite the present political crisis. Speaking at a farewell press conference tonight, flanked by Mr. Witness Mangwende, the Zimbabwe Foreign Minister, Lord Carrington said: "I think the situation here is stable. If you look at it from the outside and look at the Lancaster House constitution Mr. Mugabe is entitled to have whom he likes in his government, and it seems to me that the situation here is stable."

Lord Carrington met Mr. Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, for nearly an hour and a half yesterday and for lunch today. He said Mr. Mugabe's plans for a one-party state were among subjects covered. "He said that he thinks that in the long term a one-party state might be the right answer for Zimbabwe, but there is no question of doing it against the wishes of the people of Zimbabwe or of doing it against the constitution or in an unconstitutional way. If you look at the constitution you will see what that means," Lord Carrington said.

Asked for his view of Zimbabwe's future since independence, Lord Carrington replied that despite inevitable troubles and difficulties there had been "remarkable progress if you look at it in the round". He acknowledged that there was "some unease in the white population here at the present time, probably most amongst skilled craftsmen".

He had also mentioned to Mr. Mugabe "the anxiety felt in some quarters in my country and elsewhere about detention without trial, particularly of Mr. (Wally) Scutcliffe, (the white MP belonging to Mr. Ian Smith's Republican Front party)". The only subjects which seem to have caused discord during Lord Carrington's two-day visit were the level of British aid, which the Zimbabweans would like to see increased, and the West's approach to the Namibia issue, where Mr. Mangwende accused Britain and other countries of pandering to the whims of South Africa.

The central committee of the Patriotic Front party meets tomorrow in a critical session which should resolve questions over the leadership of Mr. Joshua Nkomo (Stephen Taylor writes). The meeting, arising from the Cabinet last week, will also decide whether the two remaining Patriotic Front members of the Cabinet should resign. Of the four who survive the purge, one has resigned and the other has indicated he will stay.

There is considerable internal debate over the leadership and rumbles of dissatisfaction from the radical faction, which maintains that the leadership has deviated from socialist principles and is concerned with feathering its nest. Despite regional differences, this group probably has more in common with the ruling Zanu (PF) party of Mr. Mugabe.

However, lacking focus and with no alternative of sufficient stature, Mr. Nkomo is likely to retain the presidency and convince the party to maintain a united front.

**Rebels in Chad claim victory**  
Paris.—The Chad rebel group, the Armed Forces of the North (FAN), said it had never lost control of the strategic central town of Oum Hadjer, which the Government said it had recaptured and held for four days until Thursday.

The FAN representative in Europe said the Government troops were ambushed, losing 417 men killed, 414 captured, and a number wounded. They abandoned much equipment. The organization of African Unity (OAU) had intended to implement a ceasefire between the two sides tomorrow. It has been rejected by the government with the rest of a timetable leading to elections and a new government by the end of June.

## Turkish regime swoops on peace activists

From Rasit Gurdilek, Ankara, Feb 26

The leading members of the Turkish section of an international left-wing peace organization were rounded up today by the authorities. Turkey's military rulers have ended a number of restrictions recently, apparently an attempt to improve their image abroad, where there has been much criticism of their human rights record.

Among the 42 leaders of the Peace Association against whom arrest warrants were issued were the Turkish section president, Mr. Mahmut Dikerdem, a former ambassador, and Mr. Orhan Apaydin, the chairman of the Istanbul Bar Association. Mr. Apaydin is also the principal defence lawyer of the 52 leaders of the left-wing Progressive Trade Unions Confederation (DISK), who are on trial for their role in the 1980 military coup.

Also included were Mr. Ali Sirmen, foreign policy analyst of the left-wing daily Cumhuriyet, Mr. Niyazi Dalyanci, owner of an Istanbul-based news agency, another liberal journalist, four former social democrat deputies, a poet, two engineers, and a doctor.

Another is Mrs. Reha Isvan, the wife of the former Mayor of Istanbul, Mr. Ahmet Isvan, who has been in custody since the Army coup of September 1980 on charges of helping DISK to organize the May Day parade in 1977, at which 36 people died.

In a written statement issued before he gave himself up in Istanbul, Mr. Apaydin claimed that the arrests were ordered simply to prevent the Turkish section of the organization from defending the DISK leaders. He said he had been warned several times last year not to take up their defence.

The Ankara martial law prosecutor has demanded the death penalty for 186 of the 574 leading members of the underground Dev-Yol (Revolutionary Road) organization, the largest extreme left-wing group in Turkey. Presenting the 1,319-page indictment today, the military prosecutor said the defendants were responsible for 333 murders and a wide range of terrorist offences. He said their aim was to "overturn the constitutional order by force, and replace it with a Marxist-Leninist state, through the strategy of people's war".

The prosecutor asked for prison terms of eight to 36 years for the rest of the defendants. The trial is expected to begin in the summer.

Among those facing the death penalty are four leaders who were listed as having died under torture in the latest report by Amnesty International. The four, together with four others, who had been listed as dead, were recently presented to the press.

□ Mr. Bulent Ecevit, the former Turkish Prime Minister, was ordered today to appear before a civil court on charges of insulting a provincial police chief in June, 1980 (Reuters reports).

President Mitterrand, preceded by agenda was the six-month old "wine war", which began when Italian wine exports were delayed by French customs procedures, and later banned. This dispute has led to fears in Italy that France might adopt a protectionist policy in other areas, such as shoes, furniture and electrical goods.

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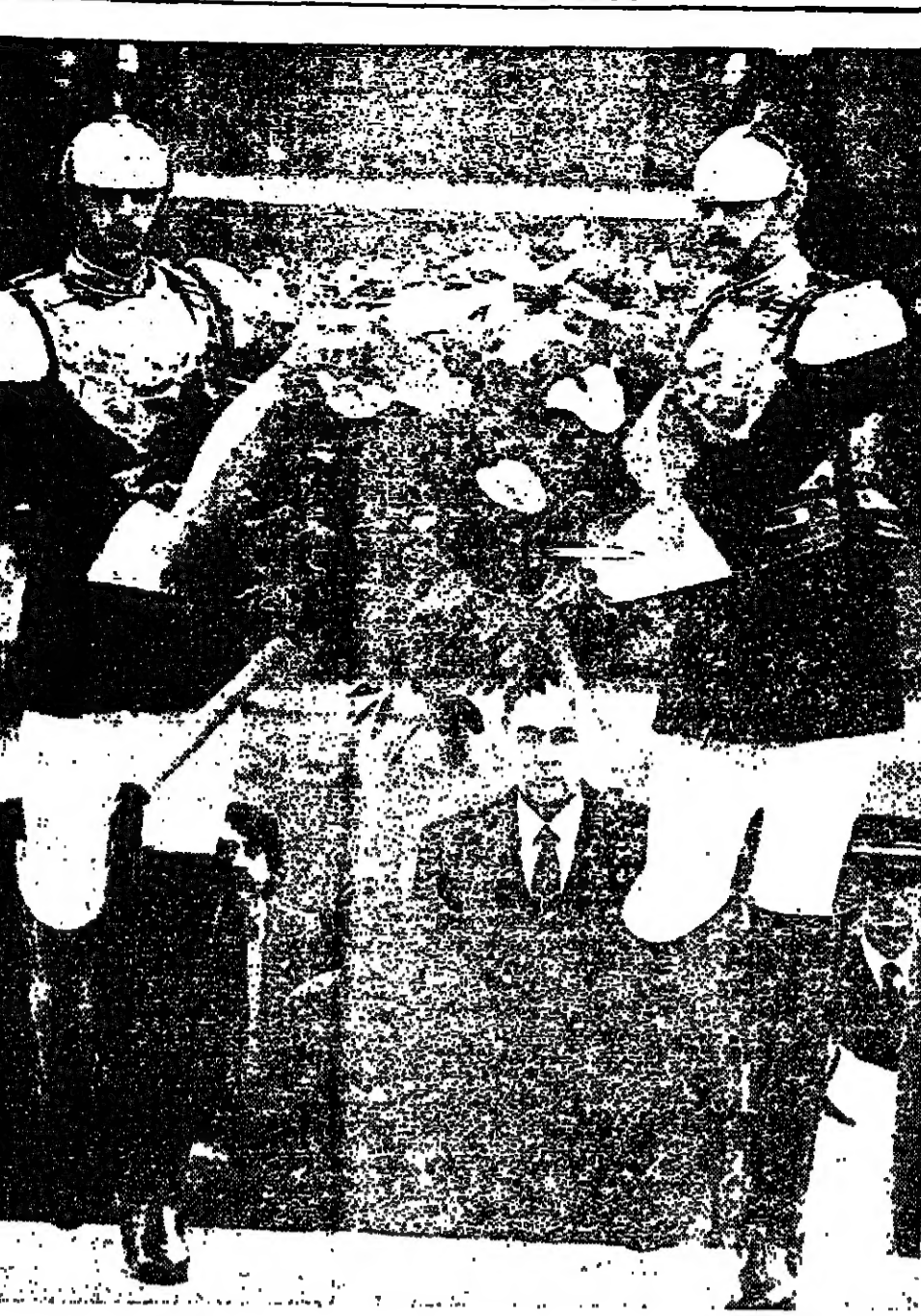
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Wine war tops Rome agenda

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## 'Sacrifice' theory at coup trial

From Richard Wigg Madrid, Feb 26

General Alfonso Armada, accused of plotting last year's attempt to overthrow Spanish democracy, was presented by the defence today as the man who sacrificed himself to rescue 350 MPs held at gunpoint.

An impressive procession of 10 generals present at Army headquarters on the coup night testified in written evidence in favour of the conduct of General Armada, then deputy Spanish Army chief. They supported his claim to have obeyed superior orders throughout.

"In this situation there has to be a sacrifice and it is going to be by me," General Armada was alleged to have declared in the generals' written evidence called by Senior Ramon Hermosilla, read out at the court martial today.

This was allegedly after receiving a telephone call from Lieutenant-General Jaime Milans del Bosch, the former Captain General in Valencia, who is said to have suggested General Armada should propose himself to the MPs to head a government of national salvation in a negotiated settlement with Lieutenant-Colonel Antonio Tejero, who was occupying Parliament.

Ascribing the idea to General Milans brought a new turn in this trial where most of the accused have sought to blame General Armada.

The defence evidence was inconclusive on the key point of whether General Armada's going to Parliament that night was his decision or if he had been authorized to attempt a personal initiative by Lieutenant General José Gabaldon, the then Spanish Army chief.

The evidence today left no doubt that King Juan Carlos and Lieutenant General Sabino Fernandez Campos, head of the royal household, disapproved of the idea of General Armada offering to head a coalition government in the King's name.

portraying and implementing the old one. The persistent dilemma facing the Polish Episcopate, which met yesterday and today, has been how to maintain criticism of the martial law regime while not pushing General Jaruzelski too hard.

The result of the plenum — which showed General Jaruzelski firmly in the saddle but an increasing number of hard-line chorus in the lower reaches of the Central Committee — has probably reinforced the view in the Episcopate that the church must proceed cautiously, aiming criticism only at specific targets such as the regime as a whole.

## West rejects Israeli media accusations

By Our Foreign Staff

The BBC and The New York Times have rejected accusations by the Israeli Government that they have distorted their coverage of the Middle East because of Arab threats against their correspondents.

The BBC told The Times that despite the difficulties of working in the Middle East, it had never suppressed news because it feared the consequences of broadcasting it nor had it broadcast items in order to appease a particular party.

In New York Mr. Craig Whitney, deputy foreign editor of The New York Times, said that no story was ever suppressed by the newspaper in order to protect a reporter, and he knew of no occasion on which a story was suppressed by a reporter.

"I sincerely doubt that any correspondent of ours has ever suppressed a news story that he knew about," he said.

The campaign launched recently by the Israeli Government alleges double standards by Western news organizations in their reporting of events in Israel and the occupied territories, compared to events in the Arab world, particularly Lebanon and Syria.

The BBC said there was no evidence to support speculation that threats against Mr. Llewellyn, its former Middle East correspondent, had been planned by Syrian organizations.

The corporation withdrew Mr. Llewellyn from the region in the summer of 1980 because of threats to his life, the spokesman said, and had since been replaced by a new Middle East correspondent who was based in Nicosia.

mass incursion to protesters into Sinai over the next three weeks. According to the organizers, some 3,000 Jews are planning to arrive in the area from 37 settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

While the state-controlled Israeli radio was reporting at 6pm that the barricades had been lifted, quoting a senior officer on the spot who described the episode as a misunderstanding, the Army spokesman was saying the barricades were still in place and the operation was continuing.

Tonight the protesters were hailing the brevity of the operation as another victory in their campaign to oppose the April pull-back. "We are continuing with our plans to oppose the retreat, just as before," Mrs. Weizman said.

The New York Times denied that intimidation of correspondents in Beirut could affect their reporting of Israel. "It's apples and oranges," Mr. Whitney said. "There are talking about two separate things. There is no way in which reporting of Israel could be influenced by what happens in Beirut."

But he agreed that Beirut was a dangerous place and that there was a climate of fear. He accepted that reports of an event could appear to differ considerably depending on which side of the border they were written.

"For that reason we always try to have two reports of Israeli incursions into Lebanon," he said. "Facts are presented differently to reporters on each side of a conflict and we need to give both sides."

□ The Foreign Press Association which represents more than 200 journalists and photographers based in Israel took a front page advertisement in the English-language Jerusalem Post to express concern about the implications of the government's campaign.

This unusual step was taken after a speech in the Knesset during which Dr. Eliahu Ben-Elissar, chairman of the foreign affairs and defence committee, appealed to the association to join "the struggle for freedom of expression for objectivity of reporting and coverage, for an end to toadyism and submission".

On Thursday there were incidents on the Golan Heights when Israeli troops clashed with reporters and cameramen attempting to cover the barricading of four Druze Arab villages.

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## Paris and Bonn put London in the cold

From Jonathan Fenby Paris, Feb 26

The agreement between France and West Germany reached at summit talks here on Thursday on ways to protect Europe from the impact of high American interest rates has tended to isolate Britain in the European Community.

The French look on the agreement between President François Mitterrand and Herr Helmut Schmidt as a key test of commitment to the EEC's special arrangements for European nations to pledge themselves to the idea that they should keep their currencies stable whatever happens as a result of American interest rate rises.

One idea being floated in Paris is that companies wanting to raise money should float capital issues in the European currency unit, the ECU's special money.

The interest rate question is part of a much wider issue of European unity on which Britain is seen as being increasingly isolated. French official sources talked of "a certain egotism" in Britain's attitude. The joint declaration spoke of the need to rise above national interests, which is seen here as appointed reference to Britain's concern about its budgetary contribution to the EEC.

Britain is regarded by the French Government as the main obstacle to Community unity on a whole range of issues, ranging from the interest rate war with America to the price of the palm oil. The French days of the Mitterrand-Thatcher summit of last September, when France seemed to be seeking a renewal of friendly relations with Britain, a now dead, instead, France is seeking to build on the very close relations with West Germany which resulted from the summit meeting here.

The first attempt to convert the understanding on interest rates into a Community-wide agreement was expected to be made yesterday in Rome, where M. Mitterrand began talks with Italian leaders. Other EEC member governments are expected to be contacted rapidly. The Franco-German relationship, evident at the meetings between M. Mitterrand and Herr Schmidt on Wednesday and Thursday is expected to be the cornerstone of European unity.

Britain's now being presented as the principal obstacle to this. The French hope that British attempts to hold down farm prices in the current round of talks will be rejected by other European nations. They are encouraged by the statement agreed with Herr Schmidt which stresses that farm price questions must be separated from issues of how much each country pays to the European budget. Britain has in the past sought to hold down food prices to cut the cost of European policies.

Formal Franco-German proposals on interest rates will probably be made at a meeting of Finance Ministers of the EEC on March 15 and 16 in Brussels. There are clear problems in the way of establishing an effective joint approach. Both Paris and Bonn are anxious to maintain a good working relationship with Washington and do not want differences over interest rates to get in the way of broader understanding.

Bonn, for its part, is against any form of control of capital movements as the German delegation made clear in the week while, in the background, there are fears that M. Mitterrand's crusade to reconquer France's domestic market from importers might lead to protectionist policies.

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## NEWS IN SUMMARY

### Sweeping raids in Pakistan

Islamabad.—The authorities in Pakistan, stepping up the campaign against anti-Social Elements, have arrested more than 600 people in Sind and Punjab provinces. (Hasan Akhtar writes)

Newspapers have reported a crackdown on students in a number of cities and towns and two jailbreaks in the North-West Frontier Province, in which two convicts were reported to have been shot dead by police. Many students have been rusticated.

The Duke of Edinburgh, who arrived in Karachi yesterday on a three-day visit, was received by the Sind Governor, Lieutenant-General S. M. Abbasi. The Duke is here in his capacity as the president of the World Wildlife Fund.

### Union leader's throat cut

Santiago.—The body of Señor Tucapel Jimenez, the Chilean civil servants' union leader, was found on the outskirts of Santiago. His throat was cut, police sources said.

Señor Jimenez recently demanded the formation of a national union to fight for the return of union freedoms in Chile where such activity is severely restricted by the Pinochet regime.

### Court allows Corsica law

Paris.—An Opposition challenge to the law passed last month, giving Corsica a wide measure of autonomy, has been rejected by the Constitutional Court, which did not agree that the principle of the indivisibility of the French state was infringed.

However, it objected to four articles in the wider decentralization law affecting metropolitan France. M. Gaston Giffere, the Minister of the Interior, said this technicality which would not prevent promulgation of the law in a few days.

### Pretoria 'frees' journalist

Johannesburg.—Mr. Zwelakhe Sisulu, the banned black journalist, has been released after eight months' detention without trial under South Africa's Terrorism Act, the Transvaal Attorney General's office said.

The three-year banning order on Mr. Sisulu, a former president of the black Media Workers' Association of South Africa, remains in force, barring him from political and social gatherings and restricting his freedom of movement.

### Parsons for Washington

Sir Anthony Parsons (above), Britain's permanent representative at the United Nations, is expected to become the new British Ambassador in Washington later this year, according to diplomatic sources. (Nicholas Ashford writes)

If the appointment is confirmed he will succeed Sir Nicholas Henderson, who was brought out of retirement to replace Mr. Peter Jay. Sir Anthony is expected to be replaced by Sir John Thomson, the High Commissioner in Delhi. Sir Anthony, who will be 60 in September, will have the distinction of being given the Foreign Service's top post abroad after reaching retirement age.

During a distinguished career he has served in Baghdad, Cairo, Khartoum, Amman, Bahrain, Ankara and Tehran.

Smoking marijuana may damage health but no more than tobacco, according to the results of a 15-month study of the drug's possible health hazards.

The study, carried out by the Institute of Health of the American National Academy of Sciences, finds that although marijuana produces a variety of reversible, short-term health effects, though there is no firm permanent damage.

However, the report gives a warning to the effect that "what little we know for certain about the effects of marijuana on human health — and all that we have reason to suspect — justify serious national concern".

The most disturbing part of the report is the section dealing with marijuana smoking among school children. It shows that more than 60 per cent of high school students have smoked marijuana and that 9 per cent of them use it on a daily basis.

It says that the drug impedes memory, impairs speech and slows learning. It may also produce a range of mental responses, from euphoria to confusion or delirium — symptoms of particular concern, the report notes, because much of the heavy use of marijuana by adolescents is carried out during school hours.

### Correction

In our report yesterday on President Reagan's speech to the Organization of American States the omission of a phrase suggested he was in Managua, Nicaragua. In fact it was President Lopez Portillo of Mexico who spoke in Managua.

The sentence should have read: "In his speech made in the Nicaraguan capital of Managua last Sunday, President Lopez Portillo, who was clearly trying to influence President Reagan's much-heralded statement, outlined a three-part peace plan."

## Polish party told to stop bickering

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, Feb 26

Mr. Mieczyslaw Rokowski, the Deputy Prime Minister, has appealed for an end to bickering in the Polish Communist Party, in a speech to the party's two-day plenary session in Warsaw.

He said: "If substantive discussions are replaced by undermining actions, innuendos and nebulous suggestions, as well as libel, then the much-delayed unity will not come. My view is that such practices are out of place in our party."

That comment, and indeed much of the speech, seems aimed at rebutting criticism voiced by Central Committee members during the meetings. The criticism centred on three points: the need for the party to take a more aggressive stance in the country; the need to purify its ranks by purging careerists who joined in the 1970s; and the lack of consultation between the Government leadership and the party over the draft discussion paper on the shape of trade unions.

It is understood that some Central Committee members only learned of the union proposals after an interview with The Times was given by Mr. Stanislaw Ciosek, the Trade Union Minister, who was picked up and broadcast to Poland by Western radio stations a week before the guidelines were officially published.

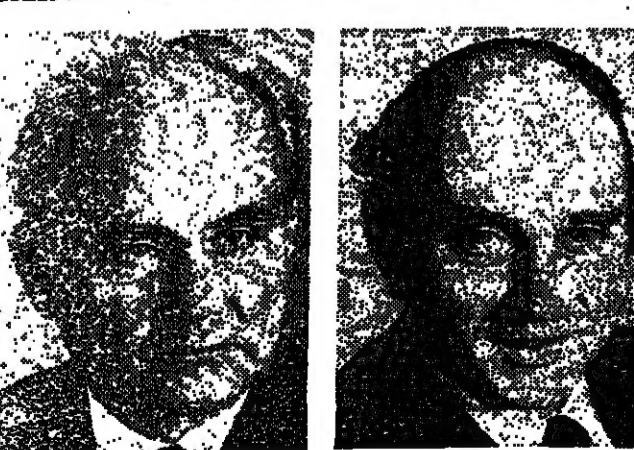
Mr. Rokowski emphasized that there had been adequate consultation, that the quest for ideological purity should be tempered and that the main unifying point for the party should be a front for national understanding.

Apart from General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Polish leader, who delivered a summing up speech that struck similar tones, Mr. Rokowski was the most senior speaker at the plenum, at least as far as the official press account is concerned. Mr. Rokowski is a prominent liberal reformer within the party.

Meanwhile the Catholic Church in Poland has been searching for a new strategy or at least a new way of

portraying and implementing the old one. The persistent dilemma facing the Polish Episcopate, which met yesterday and today, has been how to maintain criticism of the martial law regime while not pushing General Jaruzelski too hard.

The result of the plenum — which showed General Jaruzelski firmly in the saddle but an increasing number of hard-line chorus in the lower reaches of the Central Committee — has probably reinforced the view in the Episcopate that the church must proceed cautiously, aiming criticism only at specific targets such as the regime as a whole.



Matthöfer: Finance Lambsdorff: Economics



# The semi-detached Mr Sparrow takes over the Thatcher think tank

Two weeks ago merchant banker John Sparrow was sitting in his City office when a phone call came summoning him to Downing Street. For more than five years as London personnel chief of Morgan Grenfell he had been quietly advising the Prime Minister on financial and industrial affairs. This time he was certain there could be only two reasons he might be wanted — for advice on the Laker rescue or on the winding up of De Lorean motors.

Instead, he was taken up to the Cabinet Secretary, Sir Robert Armstrong, and offered the directorship of the Central Policy Review Staff, the "Think Tank", a job he did not even know was available and had certainly never considered for himself.

Yesterday, after the appointment was formally announced, Mr Sparrow admitted that he had been "totally surprised". So were other Conservative advisers. The battle to win the Prime Minister's ear is a fierce one, particularly at a time when the Government is beginning to marshal its various policy advisory teams in the long run towards the next election.

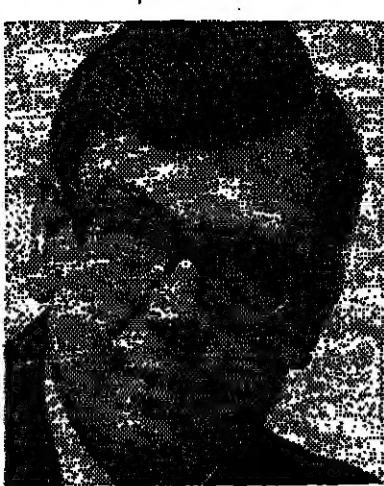
The current holder of the job, Robin Ibbotson from ICI, was expected to stay on for another year at least. He was among the handful of senior businessmen whom Mrs Thatcher brought into Downing Street soon after her election and, although there had been occasional complaints from the Tory right that the

Think Tank had become insufficiently political, the Prime Minister often made it clear that she was happy with his work.

It appears now, however, that a change at the CPRS had been in the offing since before Christmas, ICI is Britain's biggest manufacturing company and has some big problems. Ibbotson had been its commercial and planning director and his contract with the Government specified that he could be pulled back any time after two years in Downing Street. The company warned in December that it would probably exercise its option at the earliest opportunity and this was confirmed at an ICI board meeting. The new man takes over in a month's time.

John Sparrow is typical of the new school of political advisers who have impressed the Prime Minister more by the assiduous circulation of helpful written advice than by old-style political fixing and glad-handing.

Mr Sparrow recalls that he was first asked to give financial advice to Mrs Thatcher in opposition. He still does not know who suggested him then — or indeed for his new job. He had one interview with the opposition leader in her House of Commons office and has hardly seen her since. He has simply circulated short papers on interest rates and the financial markets — in large numbers in opposition, less frequently in government. Of the other mem-



John Sparrow: mild, persuasive

bers of the Cabinet, he is closest to Sir Geoffrey Howe.

His political position is regarded by his friends as that of a fairly straightforward City monetarist. In his own words: "I am not a particularly political person. I like to think of myself as at least semi-detached and dispassionate. Twenty years ago I was a Conservative councillor in Ealing and considered my views perhaps closest to those of Iain Macleod. In as much as I have a political view I still think that I am a Macleod man which means, in my book, being much closer to Margaret Thatcher than to, say, Francis Pym."

John Sparrow's mild, persuasive demeanour may have appealed to the Prime Minister (his

style is very like that of the outgoing Robin Ibbotson) but his appointment has not pleased those who believe the Think Tank has become too dominated by the Whitehall machine to serve Mrs Thatcher's reelection.

The role of the Think Tank has never before stayed the same from one director to another. Under its first chief, Lord Rothschild, the best and brightest of industry and the Civil Service were brought together with the aim of providing an alternative voice to accepted Whitehall wisdoms. But it took a steep dive in prime ministerial popularity when Rothschild challenged Edward Heath's "good news" speeches with a report that unless Britain stopped acting like a rich nation she would be one of the poorest in Europe by 1985.

Rothschild's successor, Sir Kenneth Berrill, was himself a civil servant, worked more closely with the Whitehall machine, but still managed to preside over the notorious Think Tank attack on the lavishness of Britain's representation overseas. Since then, however, despite important industrial work under Berrill and Ibbotson, the impact of the CPRS has been much less.

A strong right-wing strand among Mrs Thatcher's team would very much like to have used the opportunity of changing the head of the Think Tank for reviving its radical past. A Monday Club report by Graham Mather of the Institute of

Directors was by coincidence published last week. It stated that "the resources of the CPRS appear to be used in areas of marginal significance to Party and Government. Whilst it is engaged in a study on cashless pay, for example, it has apparently produced nothing on the longer term future of tripartite intervention in the economy and the future of the NEDC."

John Sparrow admitted yesterday that he had been given no guidelines by the Cabinet Secretary on how the Prime Minister wanted the CPRS to be run. He has met Robin Ibbotson only once, very briefly, and so far no others of the 20-strong team. He can be expected to keep up work on nationalized industries. At Morgan Grenfell — which will continue paying his unspecified salary with the help of a £33,000 a year contribution from the Exchequer — he was a director of Coalite, United Gas Industries and had a strong interest in the privatization of the energy sector.

He also has the same contractual arrangement as his predecessor. As one ICI analyst put it yesterday, "Men who know as much about government thinking as heads of the Think Tank become too valuable to their companies to leave in Whitehall a moment longer than necessary. Just as ICI want Ibbotson back, so will his bank want Mr Sparrow back — particularly, if Mrs Thatcher wins the election."

Peter Stothard

## Roaring trade at the White Hotel

This week Penguin Books realized too that most psychoanalysts were Jews, as were their patients. From that came the realization that Freud had been imbued with the humanist beliefs of the nineteenth century, and had studied individuals with great care, in contrast to Hitler who exterminated thousands without a second thought.

What he was trying to do, Thomas says, was to touch the nerve ends of the twentieth century by finding a metaphor to connect what was just accepted. But when Hitler and Stalin did the same thing, people began to ask why.

"This is a very self-conscious age; we know we are brutes. No one at the time questioned why Genghis Khan slaughtered millions; it was just accepted. But when Hitler and Stalin did the same thing, people began to ask why."

Last year Thomas was invited to read passages from *The White Hotel* to an American Jewish audience on the fortieth anniversary of the Babi Yar massacre, but he declined.

"I felt great guilt writing about such a horrific event and I had to satisfy myself that I was not writing it for simple commercial exploitation. Writing it was a very private thing, and so should reading it be. I would be very unhappy declaring it from a rostrum."

He feared a hostile reaction from the Jewish community when the book first appeared, but it never came. At the same time, he is not altogether surprised that America woke up to the book before England.

"Psychoanalysis is much more favourably regarded in the United States, where so many people are either analysts or analysts' patients. Americans are also much more ready to accept an unusual format, more open to something new and original. And of course there is a very large Jewish population, particularly in New York where interest was first aroused. In Britain, it requires exceptional publicity to get a serious novel going."

His next is *The Improvisatore*, just off the typewriter, which is again set in Russia with a dissident poet as hero. Thomas has never been to the Soviet Union; his knowledge of Russian comes from his academic service, where he took a language course and was graded "suitable for low-level interrogation after further training". He never became an interrogator, but he discovered Russian literature.

Donald Thomas is now a wealthy man, and his accountant keeps pointing out the benefits of residence in various sunny tax havens. But, if he moves anywhere, it will be back to the rocks and the wild sea of his native Cornwall. More than any literary or commercial success, says Thomas, a writer needs his roots.

Alan Hamilton

## Why Baldwin deserves his place in the House

by Julian Critchley

Two empty plinths stand in the Members' Lobby of the House of Commons.

On either side stands a statue of every modern Prime Minister until Attlee — every one, that is, except Stanley Baldwin.

There is a move to have that omission put right, but the decision will not be taken on the nod. Many Labour MPs are not keen on celebrating the Tory who presided over the General Strike and the Depression. And a number of Tories would rather reserve a place for a more maternal figure...

Baldwin as seen by Low in 1935: Baldwin deals the League of Nations a severe blow



"YOU KNOW YOU CAN TRUST ME"

Last August, while staying at my cousin's house in Somerset, I discovered a collection of 36 speeches made by Stanley Baldwin between the years 1923 and 1926, and published by Penguin Books under the title *On England*. I was entranced.

Of the 36 only four were on political subjects, the remainder ranged over a variety of subjects of immediate interest to his listeners. They were witty, learned and without rancour. Compared with the belligerence of today's politics, what a breath of fresh air they are.

Here was a Prime Minister and party leader who found time not only to indulge his own strong sense of local patriotism in his native town (Bewdley), "one came out of

this red soil, and one will return to it and lay one's bones in it", but to evoke the *genius loci* in every other place he visited and share his catholic knowledge and expertise in literature, the arts, history and institutions.

His love of the country and wild life comes out in his dedication to the bird sanctuary in Hyde Park to the memory of WH Hudson; his deep and undemonstrative religious convictions are seen in his talks on Christian ideals and religion in politics for the National Free Church conference and a Wesleyan meeting.

He described himself as "a sort of half-educated fellow who never stops learning"; but I wonder if there are any more exquisite passages in

modern English literature than are to be found in his address to the Classical Association on his debt to the classics. It was in the Roman qualities of piety and gravitas and the truth of the spoken word that he saw the foundation of European civilization.

Baldwin was three times Prime Minister, and perhaps the dominant figure in politics between the two wars; yet there is no statue or memorial to him in the Palace of Westminster. In the Members' Lobby there are two empty plinths, the other six being occupied by Churchill, Lloyd George, Bonar Law and, most recently, Attlee.

In December last year I

tabled an Early Day motion that "a statue of Stanley Baldwin be placed in the Members' Lobby," which has attracted 108 signatures. Among the sponsors of my motion are Sir Harold Wilson, Edward Heath and James Callaghan. So far, however, only three Labour MPs have signed.

Baldwin's reputation has suffered from what could be called the Churchillian interpretation of history, and it is true that relations between them were never especially close. But to accuse Baldwin of appeasement is to confuse Stanley with Neville, and to place upon the first half of the 1930s blame that properly lies upon the second.

In fact Baldwin's reputation is unassailable. It rests

upon three major achievements: he helped to turn the Labour Party from being a revolutionary party into a constitutional one; he met and overcame the challenge of the General Strike of 1926; and by his skilful handling of the Abdication crisis, probably saved the Monarchy.

Of the six who already stand in the Members' Lobby, only two, Churchill and Lloyd George, can claim, by their prowess in war, to have made a greater contribution to the state.

It is disappointing that, so far at least, the Labour Party has been so ungenerous towards Baldwin. His socialist friends, like Ellen Wilkinson, are long since dead and, it is true to say, that whenever references occur in

Baldwin's speeches to the Labour Party, they are studiously charitable and courteous, though there was fuel for quarrels a plenty. Conciliation was his constant aim.

Baldwin held for many years a very strong place in the affections of the people of all parties, and that, I am sure, was because they knew from the early days of his premiership that service to the nation was his overriding purpose.

He took his party seriously enough but simply because he saw it as a necessary instrument to serve that purpose. This was the pervasion of a great speech of his on Democracy and the Spirit of Service which he made in December 1924 in the Albert Hall to members of the victorious Conservative Party.

"I want to see the spirit of service to the whole nation, the birthright of every member of the Unionist Party, Unionist in the sense that we stand for the union of those two nations of which Disraeli spoke; union among our own people to make a nation of our own people at home, which if secured, nothing else matters in the world... You cannot better serve your party, and through your party your country, than in dedicating your lives to that service."

Lady Lorna Howard, his daughter, tells the story of a hotel for tramps which was run privately by two old ladies in a Worcestershire village. Word spread that it would have to close. Baldwin went to his bank and put through the hotel door an envelope on which was written "from a grateful tramp".

There can be no memorial to Baldwin at Westminster without the support of Labour MPs. Conservatives and Liberals were happy to support Lord Attlee's petrification. Will Michael Foot be as generous? I shall try to persuade him when I meet him this week.

The author is the Conservative MP for Aldershot.

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Geoffrey Smith

## Will Sir Geoffrey budget for a vote-winner?

As the Chancellor prepares his Budget, he is once again receiving a great deal of economic advice. But what are the political pressures on him this time? One indication that they are considerable was the Prime Minister's speech this morning warning that the fall in oil prices limits Sir Geoffrey's room for manoeuvre. This was a deliberate tactic to dampen expectations, which had been rising to the point where whatever the Chancellor did was in danger of seeming an anticlimax.

But despite Mrs Thatcher's essay in pessimism, the political pressures on Sir Geoffrey are still strong. First he will want to avoid a repetition of last year's fiasco in which members of the Cabinet competed in letting it be known how much they disapproved of the Budget.

Last month, when the Cabinet discussed the broad strategy of this year's Budget, it seemed that all would be well. Specific pledges were neither given nor sought, but the general impression was that his proposals would not be such as to send a shudder of horror down the spines of any of his colleagues. Every-one could relax.

Except for Sir Geoffrey, that is, who now has to justify the calm of a Cabinet in which senior Conservatives have noted a considerable measure of rising damp.

In other words, most of Sir Geoffrey's fellow Ministers will be disappointed if there is not some mild refutation.

That wish is still more pronounced on the Conservative backbenches. Opinions vary as to whether the relief should take the form of a reduction in the National Insurance Surcharge, as the CBI recommends, or in taxation, which would be the preference of the Institute of Directors if the Chancellor strays from the rectitude of a neutral Budget. Some Conservative MPs are not particularly worried about what kind of relief there should be, so long as there is some.

The party, quite simply, wants something to cheer. Many Conservative MPs are now decidedly jumpy about their chances of re-election. They want something to steady their nerves. They want to be able to say to their constituency supporters, and to wavering Conservative voters: "Look, Mrs Thatcher always warned that there would be tough times before the economy started to recover. But this is the first sign of spring. Soon summer will be here."

It may seem a little obvious, but Conservative backbenchers are not looking for any subtle messages at the moment. They also believe that a bit of mild refutation from the Government would help to cut the ground from under the Social Democrats.

Much of this sentiment can be attributed to a desire for a psychological boost after what has been a pretty trying

time for any Conservative member. But it is also based on the calculation that there is not much time left.

The electoral calendar has already begun to exercise its tyranny. According to this reasoning, the election will be held in the autumn of 1983, which leaves only two annual Budgets before the party is judged at the polls.

The voters are naturally sceptical of a particularly

generous Budget in the run-up to an election. So if the Chancellor is to offer any comfort in time for it to have electoral effect, he had better start now.

This assessment is entirely logical, but it is based on the assumption that the election must be held in autumn next year. This is now the conventional wisdom in all parties. Mrs Thatcher will hardly want to go to the country

before then, and if she waits until the last moment in the spring of 1984 she will risk being destroyed by another winter of discontent. Look what the unions did to poor Mr Callaghan, and they were supposed to be on his side.

This reasoning may seem logical enough. The last two governments were undermined by conflict with the unions: Mr Callaghan in 1979 and Mr Heath in 1974. Surely no Conservative government would want to risk reviving memories of the three-day week and the battle with the miners?

Yet it can be just as dangerous for politicians as for generals to be dominated in their thinking by the lessons of the last war. Mr Callaghan suffered so much from the winter of discontent simply because the unions were supposed to be on his side.

One of the strong points in Labour's appeal to the electorate is the claim that it is the party that knows how to manage the unions. Indeed, so much is Labour seen as the party of the unions that it usually loses support when the unions are disruptive.

placed to eat into the Labour vote — which would satisfy the Conservatives well. It does not follow from this that Mrs Thatcher would be wise to opt now for a 1984 election. If circumstances look favourable in the autumn of 1983 she will surely go to the country then. But she is not hemmed in by the electoral timetable so much as is often supposed. She could afford to run on into 1984 if necessary, which means that there could be two Budgets after this one before the election.

The political case for some mild refutation in this Budget is not that time is running out, but that the Conservative Party needs to be healed. If the refutation is more than mild, Sir Geoffrey will outpace the right, he does not offer some corollary that just might be the odd deflection to the SDP. One or two Conservative members might resign the Whip, if only for a while; and, much more probably, there would be a series of hostile Conservative amendments.

The impression would be conveyed of a party sadly at odds with itself. It is because this Budget has come to assume a symbolic importance within the party that for once it may be more important to have the correct political balance than to get his economic calculations absolutely right.

Sir Geoffrey: rising damp in the Cabinet





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## YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS YOU

One unfortunate effect of the proposal to offer unemployed youngsters adventure training with the armed forces under a scheme to be announced next month, is that the arguments about unemployment will become inextricably, though unwarrantably, entangled with arguments about conscription. Conscription has become a taboo word in the political vocabulary since it was abolished by Mr Macmillan and Mr Duncan Sandys twenty five years ago. The military consequences of that decision have been obscured by the relative security which we have enjoyed in the world since then, a security consigned by self-satisfaction to the armed forces at being once again left alone with their professional and social consequences of the abolition seem also to have been ignored.

The effect of abolition was to give society a feeling of liberation from something which was felt to smother of compulsion and militarism. The easygoing attitude of voluntary service which permeated the British approach to defence recruitment affected society as a whole. "Rights" now take precedence over responsibilities from the cradle through the classroom, to the shop floor, and beyond. In such an age, the social benefits of conscription have become only the subject of lampoons in novels or of the fashionable resentment of people who think that a nation has no need — let alone a duty — to look to its own security.

Of course the arguments are not all one way, and no politician would dream of basing his election platform on the re-introduction of conscription. Nevertheless the subject should now be examined, and should stop becoming a taboo both for social and strategic reasons — neither of which are in any way connected with the problem of unemployment. The

strategic case for re-examining the Macmillan-Sandys decision to rely solely on small professional armed forces is based on the fact that events are unpredictable and the world is an inherently unsafe place. A policy of deterrence can not be more than a major part of one's defence posture, and its credibility anyway depends on a nation's ability to meet situations created by some kind of breakdown of that deterrence. How and when such a breakdown might occur is not predictable. But we have lived in an era of total strategy for long enough now to know that an emergency, when it comes — and come it will, unless all the lessons of history are to be ignored — will have to be tackled somehow by the whole nation with all its resources, human and industrial, not just its volunteers. We maintain undermanned and overpaid armed forces which delight in their professionalism, and which refuse to contemplate a more modest but more precautionary role as a basis for expansion. Britain, alone of its European allies, relies solely on the market place to recruit enough volunteers to meet the needs of national security. This self-indulgence infects society as a whole, which feels that it has no need to worry about defence, other than to contribute to its cost through general taxation. The system, on military grounds alone, cries out for review.

The abolition of conscription was also a social tragedy. Compulsory service touched almost every family in the land and in touching them served to remind the people that the nation's defences required an effort from all her citizens however inconspicuous that effort might be. Secondly with the passing of conscription an ever-dwindling proportion of the population now has knowledge of, or contact with the armed forces. This is a potentially

dangerous state of affairs. It could lead to an alienation between the rest of the population and a tiny coterie of professional military men. The third reason is that universal military service provided a turnstile through which everybody had to pass — butcher, baker, candlestick maker, duke, don and doctor. That system provided some cement in a society only too notorious for its stratifications. It provided a common idiom for people of many different classes, accents and aspirations. Societies lose such a communal identity at their peril.

We would not suggest here that only some kind of military service should be reintroduced; but that the subject should certainly be reexamined in the context of arrangements for some compulsory and universal service which contained a military option, such as occurs, for instance, in France. A short period of compulsory youth service, civilian or military, should not be seen as a palliative to youth unemployment, nor discussed in those terms. It should be seen as an innovation which could help re-create a feeling of community and national identity which threatens to slip away from this country except on rare moments of public enthusiasm. Liddell Hart, that great strategist, abhorred conscription, as one would expect of somebody who was passionately devoted to professionalism. Napoleon, on the other hand, said it "is the vitality of a nation". The subversive effects of inflation, a diminishing sense of social responsibility, and years of diffident leadership have all conspired to loosen the cement in Britain's brickwork. A debate about the need for young people to be conscripted in the service of their country, in a choice of tasks which would be either civil or military, might help put that cement back where it belongs.

## NO NEED TO RULE ALL THE AIR WAVES

The Government is expected shortly to announce its plans for a British satellite which would provide two extra television channels within five years, and it is thought likely that both these channels will go to the BBC. If that is the Home Secretary's decision, it will be easy to understand the reasons. The BBC gives the impression at the moment of being under capable management; it is eager to have the extra channels; and it knows what it wants to do with them. It proposes to use one channel largely though not solely for repeat programmes and the other for a subscription service which the BBC believes would be a useful earner of revenue.

There is always a natural tendency on the part of any minister to respond to proposals which are put forward with the greatest urgency and conviction. But would this further expansion really be in the best interests of the BBC itself? It is nearly thirty years since the British Broadcasting Company (as it was then called) was formed, and for more than half its life to date the BBC enjoyed a monopoly of broadcasting in this country.

That monopoly was destroyed in one field with the introduction of independent television and then in another with the coming of independent local radio. But in each

instance the BBC has given ground reluctantly. It could not prevent the birth of independent television, but it responded to that competition with the determination to secure at least fifty per cent of the viewing audience. It could not block independent local radio but it was at pains to get in first with a number of local radio stations of its own. It has responded to the prospect of independent breakfast television with plans for a BBC breakfast television service, and now when two more television channels are up for grabs it is eager to get its hands on them.

This thrust for expansion may itself be regarded as a sign of vitality. Each extension, and projected extension, of the BBC's activities can be defended on its merits. But the total effect has been to inflate the Corporation to the point where it has become too unwieldy. Nobody who was starting from scratch to plan the best pattern of broadcasting for Britain would give to one organization, no matter how high-minded or efficient, responsibility for two out of four television channels, all national and regional radio, overseas broadcasting, a share of local radio and half the breakfast television that will shortly be available — never mind about the two more television channels.

This is not an argument for

breaking up the BBC as it now exists. That would do untold damage to a service of high quality simply to fit an organizational blueprint. In any case, it would be a pretty poor blueprint that failed to link overseas broadcasting to television and radio at home because this makes it easier to sustain a position of independence from government in what could otherwise degenerate into a mere propaganda service. But the BBC will have to adjust its thinking to a world in which it no longer has to have a stake in every new broadcasting activity.

The Annan Committee said in its report five years ago that it regarded "the next 15 years as an interlude between two eras, in which the swan-song of the era of conventional broadcasting is likely to develop into the prelude to the era of multiplicity of telecommunication services". There are differences of opinion as to how long it will take for this new era to come along. But with satellite television becoming available, it is evident that these two new channels will not be the last additional television outlets in the years ahead. If the BBC is to perform as great a service in the future as it has in the past it will have to think what its role should be when it can have only a distinctive and not a dominating share of the market.

### Budget figures

From Professor R. R. Neild and Mr T. S. Ward  
Sir, Anyone who looks around can see that the standard of public services has been reduced. Even more striking is the cut in public sector investment: house building, road building and investment by the nationalized industries. Yet Professor Friedman (February 13) and others keep asserting that Mrs Thatcher and her colleagues have failed to cut public expenditure.

The facts are that public expenditure has been cut severely, but those expenditure cuts, together with the tax increases and tight monetary policies imposed by the Government, have had perverse effects. They have reduced real demand and output. That has caused big increases in public expenditure on unemployment and supplementary benefits, loans to nationalized industries and other items where the Government has had little alternative but to compensate for reduced income.

As a result, total public expenditure, boosted in this way, has increased in relation to the GDP, which has been depressed by tight fiscal and monetary policies. Critics of the Government in their own ranks look at this increase and protest. They ignore the recession and the effect of budgetary policy in causing it.

They ignore the well-established proposition that figures for actual budgetary flows are no indication of budgetary policy because they do not differentiate between two types of change in expenditure and receipts: those caused by changes in policy, those caused by policy changes, i.e. changes in tax rates, public-sector prices and expenditure programmes. The way to escape from this middle — a way which has been embraced by Professor Friedman in the past — is to use a measure which explicitly adjusts public expenditure and receipts for variations in GDP from a growth path consistent with constant employment. On that basis, public expenditure in relation to (constant employment) GDP, which stood at 49.5 per cent in 1975, was down to 45.5 per cent by 1978 and has been reduced by the present Government to 42 per cent in 1981-82.

May we plead that Budget figures on a constant-employment basis be produced alongside the traditional figures in this and future Budgets? As we showed in a study published by the Institute of Fiscal Studies in 1978, this can be done without great difficulty. Unlike the corrected figures now used, those on a constant-employment basis would be a guide to the restrictive or expansionary nature of budgetary policy.

Thus, it is not so surprising that Britain is in such a deep depression when it is seen that

the Budget balance on a constant employment basis has been changed from -7.4 per cent of GDP in 1975 to -5 per cent in 1978 and to +2.3 per cent in 1981-82. That is a total tightening of 10 per cent of GDP since Mr Healey did his U-turn. It is a far greater tightening of the Budget than occurred in all the Budget balancing exercises by Labour and Conservative governments in the early 1930s, and it far exceeds the degree of budgetary restriction imposed by any of our European neighbours in the current recession. Yours faithfully, R. R. NEILD, T. S. WARD, University of Cambridge, Faculty Board of Economics and Politics, Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge, February 22.

### Hot line

From Mr J. N. Oppenheim  
Sir, When it is good, it is very good. Yesterday, at noon in Edinburgh, I requested that a telephone be installed as soon as possible and, lo and behold, it was installed and working at 3.25 pm. Yours faithfully, J. N. OPPENHEIM, 10 St Mary at Hill, EC3, February 24.

## A challenging view of trial juries

From his Honour Gilbert F. Leslie  
Sir, It is reported (February 23) that in a case at the Old Bailey, in which 15 young blacks are on trial for the murder of a white woman, the jury was "challenged" on the first day. After 40 minutes a jury consisting of three blacks, three Asians and six whites was chosen. On the second day, however, the jury had to be discharged and a new trial begun, because it was disclosed that one of the jurors was related to one of the counsel in the case.

Before a second jury was chosen no fewer than 25 jurors were "challenged" (including white members of the first jury) and a similar time was taken up. The second jury was composed of five blacks, five whites and two Asians. As the law is at present, an accused person is able to "challenge" three jurors peremptorily without giving any reason. His counsel, or he himself, merely says "challenge" as the juror is about to take the oath or affirm, and the juror has to leave the jury-box. But in the course of many years, counsel and defendants accept what they regard as "the luck of the draw".

In 1965, when I first presided at a criminal court in London, I was consequently very much surprised to find that "challenges" were common in the metropolis. So far as I could tell, between then and my retirement in 1980, they were usually made because defending counsel thinks that the juror may be intelligent or because the juror is white or a woman.

In view of what goes on in the London courts I have formed the strong opinion, and I know that many experienced judges agree, that peremptory challenges should be abolished. If for any reason it would be unfair for a particular juror to adjudicate in a particular case, the objection should be stated in open court in the presence of the juror and be ruled upon by the judge. I believe that the law should be reformed in this way without delay.

I also believe that the law relating to the qualifications of jurors should be re-examined; but that is another story. Yours faithfully, GILBERT F. LESLIE, Reform Club, SW1, February 24.

## 'Sale' of Oxford places

From Dr and Mrs B. Ward-Perkins  
Sir, The case of Wadham College accepting two students sight unseen (report, February 19), merely on the basis of a £500,000 offer from a foreign student, has raised interesting reactions in Oxford. In particular there seems to be a prevalent attitude that this is a harmless way of raising much needed money "for the greater good", since it involves foreign students outside the government-imposed quotas for British and EEC nationals.

However, we should like to point out that, long before quotas were introduced, this kind of sale, had it involved British students, would have been considered an unacceptable affront to Oxford's meritocratic ideals. It is not a worrying case of double morality, and furthermore insulting to the foreign countries involved, that we are prepared to do for them what we would not dream of doing for ourselves? Yours etc., BRYAN WARD-PERKINS, KATE WARD-PERKINS, As from: Trinity College, Oxford.

### From Mrs R. A. Briant

Sir, The current controversy over Wadham College's admission policy raises two questions. The first is obvious: should places be made available in exchange for donations? If in principle, this is wrong, can there be circumstances in which it is none the less an acceptable course of action because the good it achieves outweighs the bad? In general my sympathies go against Wadham although I can see there is a case to be made on both sides.

The second issue exercises me more: is this controversy essentially a private matter or does it seem to imply? Oxbridge colleges are, after all, private foundations. The answer to this seems to me clear. Oxford and Cambridge play a significant role in the public life of this country and are establishments of international renown. They confer qualifications which attract worldwide respect, give authority to their possessors and influence public life as well as private interests and opinions and ease access to many of the more influential positions in our society. Given this, while selection of undergraduates and senior members is a private matter, the guidelines by which their choice is made must be of public concern.

More generally, it is surely those entrusted with governing institutions which are not publicly accountable yet have influence and prestige whom we are most entitled to hope would conduct their affairs with integrity, mindful of public responsibilities as well as private interests. It is the price such institutions pay for their eminence that their decision may be the legitimate subject of public debate. Yours faithfully, ROMY BRIANT, 7 Canterbury Road, Oxford, February 24.

## European Court judgment on caning

From Mr Edward Baker

Sir, I have not seen the full text of the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in *Campbell and Cosans v UK*, in which I was one of those representing the first applicant in the matter before the Commission at Strasbourg, but the summary you print today (February 26) hardly seems to justify your leading article's conclusion that the court "specifically refused to find caning a degrading treatment or punishment".

The court has apparently adopted the view, previously expressed by the Commission, that in a case where the applicants' own children were never actually subjected to corporal punishment, and where no medical evidence was produced of their suffering psychological or other adverse effects, the mere risk or threat of such infliction, that risk or threat could not by itself involve breach of article 3.

The article 3 implications of the actual use of corporal punishment are understood to be raised in a number of applications presently still *sub judice* at Strasbourg. The question also arose in a case which the Commission disposed of last year under the so-called "friendly settlement" procedure (Case of

*Mrs X v United Kingdom*, report adopted by the Commission on December 17, 1981).

In the latter case the British Government compromised an article 3 claim arising from a school punishment of a few strokes of the cane, by paying £1,200 damages to the applicant and undertaking to issue a circular (the text of which, I believe, has still to be approved by the Commission) advising local education authorities in the United Kingdom "that the use of corporal punishment might in certain circumstances amount to treatment contrary to article 3 of the Convention".

The obligations which the Government has thereby undertaken under international law would appear to be unaffected by the court's decision in *Campbell and Cosans v United Kingdom*. It should perhaps also be emphasized that a friendly settlement arrived at by the parties to one particular dispute on the basis of a compromise of rights as defined in the Convention, it does not affect the right of other complainants to have their cases heard.

Yours faithfully, EDWARD BAKER, 23 Salisbury House, London Wall, EC2, February 26.

## Vatican relations

From the Reverend R. T. Beckwith

Sir, The announcement, now some weeks old, that ambassadors were to be exchanged with the Vatican raises one important point which I have not yet seen discussed.

Since the announcement was made without any prior discussion in Parliament, the Government is presumably working on the assumption that it has the legal power to exchange ambassadors without any further legislation to authorise it. The question is, however, has it in fact this power?

When the question of exchanging ambassadors was first mooted, as long ago as 1848, it was envisaged that such a step might be contrary to the Bill of Rights (1689) and the Act of Settlement (1700). Consequently, an "Act for enabling her Majesty to establish and maintain diplomatic relations with the Sovereign of the Roman States" was passed in that year.

However, in 1875 the 1848 Act was repealed and the Papal States having lost independence five years earlier. The Act had never, in fact, been implemented, because of the stipulations it made about the kind of ambassador from Rome who would be acceptable, and the British Government had continued to be represented there by an unofficial agent.

Even before the Vatican regained its independence as a state under the Lateran Treaty of 1929, unofficial diplomatic representation of the same kind was

resumed, and an Apostolic Delegate was sent from Rome to England in 1938, as to other countries which (to quote Addis and Arnold's *Catholic Dictionary*) "have no regular diplomatic relations with the Holy See". No legislation was introduced into Parliament to authorise this, since none was thought necessary where the diplomatic relations were unofficial.

The proposal now, however, is that the relations should be made official, and ambassadors exchanged. In 1848 an Act of Parliament was thought necessary to make such a step lawful. The Act was subsequently repealed and no further such act has been passed. It appears, therefore, that the action which the Government is contemplating is unlawful *stricto iure*.

Yours faithfully, R. T. BECKWITH, Latimer House, 131 Banbury Road, Oxford, February 15.

## Lead in petrol

From Dr Richard Axton

Sir, If the government were to set a lower rate of tax on lead-free petrol and their cars would soon be converted. The motor manufacturing industry might even benefit from the breath of fresh air. Yours faithfully, RICHARD AXTON, Christ's College, Cambridge, February 24.

## Human factor

From Sir Ian Gilmore, MP for Wokingham and Amersham (Conservative)

Sir, Unemployment is one of the greatest social and economic tragedies, and at present there are some million unemployed in this country. Yet you managed to write a leading article on the forthcoming Budget today (February 25) without once mentioning unemployment. Even though one must hope that not many readers of *The Times* are on the dole, that was surely a remarkable omission?

Yours faithfully, IAN GILMORE, House of Commons, February 25.

## A dacoit at bay

From Dr Jane M. Renfrew

Sir, Trevor Fishlock's account of Malkhan, the present day dacoit "king" in the Chambal Valley (February 15), prompted me to refer to some notes made by my grandfather, Sir Robert Ewenbank, about his capture of another notorious dacoit, Jotia Sardar, in Sanjeli State some time before the First World War, which may be of interest.

Dacoity has been more of less stamped out in British India, but it survived here and there in corners of Rajputana, and Jotia Sardar had created a reign of terror in some independent native states to the north. Once he entered Sanjeli State, which was in my grandfather's charge, he had to be tackled and law and order restored.

Sardar's procedure was to wait until dusk, unexpectedly, accompanied by two or three of his gang, and to order a good supper — meat, rice, something sweet, and a bottle of country liquor — followed by a bed and a woman to seduce him. Then he would wait until the village was swarming with his children who happened to come in his way, as a forerunner of what might follow. After a couple of nights of Sardar terrorising the inhabitants of Sanjeli State, having murdered several young women, my grandfather arrived to tackle him.

With a police force of only six sepoy to help, he enlisted the assistance of all the men of this small state to spread out along the border at dawn armed with any weapons they could lay their hands on — rusty old swords and spears, flintlocks and even bows and arrows — and at given signal to start beating their way towards the centre, examining all possible hiding places as they went. At first a large number of panthers were disturbed, but

## Sotheby's Belgravia

From Mr C. D. Llewellyn

Sir, Mr Lee's letter (February 25) is disingenuous. Sotheby's Belgravia, as he must know, is emphatically not closing down. Its very success as some years ago to open negotiations for the acquisition of larger space adjoining our headquarters at Bond Street to accommodate Sotheby's Belgravia's need for expansion.

This space has happily become available to us two years earlier than expected. Yours faithfully, GRAHAM D. LLEWELLYN, Chief Executive, Sotheby Parke Bernet and Co., 34-35 New Bond Street, W1, February 26.

## University funding

From the Provost of University College London

Sir, Your report of last Wednesday's preliminary discussion by the Senate of the University of London of the University College application for direct UGC funding may perhaps be misunderstood. Such a statement as "not a single head of college spoke in favour" might be taken to imply that at least one spoke against it. In fact, no heads of the other colleges, schools and institutes of the university contributed to this preliminary discussion as they will be having a separate exchange of views on the matter at the Collegiate Council. The discussion at Senate was well balanced, although student members of Senate (not from University College) made a number of speeches against the proposal. JAMES LIGHTHILL, Provost, University College, Gower Street, WC1, February 26.

## All in a mess

From Major C. P. Good

Sir, A recently arrived circular has provided us with some light relief. It was addressed to Mr Officers Mess, commenced "Dear Mr Mess," and wished to know whether Mr Mess thought it worth investing 40p per week to get the world's most quoted magazine. Even at this reduced price we think that we shall save our money. I am, Sir, yours faithfully, C. P. GOOD, Officers Mess, 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, BFPO 811, February 16.

## Mr Jeremy Thorpe and Amnesty

From Mr David Astor and others

Sir, Human rights are being abused throughout the world under widely differing political systems. We believe the world needs an independent body of unassailable integrity to expose these official abuses. It must be impartial, disinterested, and of impeccable judgment. We have supported the efforts of Amnesty International because its work for the oppressed has been conducted in this manner.

We are therefore disturbed by the damage done to Amnesty International that may be caused by the announcement of Mr Jeremy Thorpe's appointment to head its British section. In our view, after all the mistreatment which he has been involved in recent years, his appointment could seriously harm the work of Amnesty International. Mr Thorpe has shown himself to be a man of unsound judgment.

Mr Thorpe was chosen by the governing body of the British Section of Amnesty; that body is now responsible to Amnesty's members and supporters throughout this country. We believe that all those who share our view should join in making their opinion unequivocally known to the governing authority of the British Section.

Yours faithfully, DAVID ASTOR, PATRICIA HEWITT, RICHARD HOGGART, PETER REDDAWAY, JILL TWEEDIE, MICHAEL ZANDER, 9 Cavendish Avenue, NW3, February 25.

## Saving bird habitats

From the Director, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Sir, Your profile of the Forestry Commission (February 22) states that the conservationists "know that they need sites for golden plover, but they do not know that they are against reforestation". Not so. There is ample room for further forestry in many parts of upland Scotland; the point at issue is the choice of sites. In Wales and England much less plantable land remains. In Wales a substantial proportion is known to be the natural stronghold for important upland bird communities, including the golden plover.

In northern England and Scotland the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Nature Conservancy Council are undertaking major survey programmes to pinpoint sensitive upland areas and identify the habitat requirements of bird species at risk. But it will require a commitment from forestry interests if integration is to be successful.

So far, as existing state for forests are concerned, we are particularly pleased that the commission has embarked on work, in conjunction with our society, to produce detailed guidelines which will enable bird conservation objectives to be taken properly into account in future forest management.

However there are still areas where serious differences of opinion exist, notably over the management of the country's remaining semi-natural woodlands. Of particular concern are the remnants of Caledonian pine forest: the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is deeply concerned by the apparent failure of the native pinewood scheme, administered by the Forestry Commission, to prevent the clearance of mature woodland on Speyside which is the prime habitat for Britain's only endemic bird, the Scottish crossbill, and two pinewood specialists, the testudine and capercaillie. Yours faithfully, IAN PREST, Director, The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire, February 23.







FUARY  
HENDERSON  
id illustrator

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His passing is a great loss to the art world for he was a prolific painter in oils, watercolours and pastels of landscapes and figures. He was also a sculptor and a designer of the leading art galleries in England as well as abroad.

He was perhaps the last of the Victorian painters. His work was in the Royal Society of Painters in Water Colours in 1930 and a full member in 1937. He was elected an Honorary Member of the Royal Society of Painters in Oil Colours in 1937. He was never a member of the Royal Academy of Arts but his work was in the collection of the Tate Gallery and the Victoria and Albert Museum.

His lively and great humour, his readiness to help and his artistic life will be missed.

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# Saturday Review



## The miracle of Fish Lake

By Brian Aldiss



John Fowles has described Brian Aldiss's new novel, *Helliconia Spring* (part one of the *Helliconia* trilogy) as "the beginning of a new world — a remarkable feat of the imagination". Already comparisons have been made with Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* cycle.

Aldiss made his reputation with two outspoken and best-selling novels, *The Hand-Reared Boy* and *A Soldier Erect*. But he is best known as one of our most innovative science fiction writers. In working out how people would survive on *Helliconia*, and what the flora and fauna would be like, he consulted scientists: Iain Nicolson on astronomy, Dr Peter Cattaneo on biology, Dr Desmond Morris on biology. The novel reveals a new solar system — and a world disturbingly analogous to our own.

were away? A fine thing that would be.

The cloud of breath about their heads united them as they leaned on their spears and looked accusingly at Aoz Roon. The latter paced about, keeping himself separate from them, his expression blank.

"Turn back? You talk like women. We came to fight, and fight we will, even if we throw our lives to Wutra while we do so. If there are phagors near, I'll summon them. Stand where you are."

He went at a run to the top of the ridge behind him, so that the women were again within

his view, intending to shout at the top of his voice and awaken all the echoes in the wilderness. But the enemy was already in view. Now, too late, he understood why they had seen no more wandering Borlienians; they had been driven off. He stood paralysed before the sight of humanity's ancient enemy.

The women struggled at one end of the fish-shaped lake, the ancipitals grouped at the other. The women made frightened and uncertain movements; the ancipitals were motionless. Even in their surprise, the phagors could only be seen as a group.

It was impossible to make out the number of the enemy. They merged together with the late afternoon mists filling the hollow, and with the scarred greys and blues of the scene. One of them gave a thick, protracted cough; otherwise they might have been lifeless.

Their white birds had settled on a ridge behind them, at first with some jostling, now spaced out regularly, with heads submissively on one side, like the souls of those departed.

From their frosty outline, it could be determined that three of the phagors — presumably the leaders — were mounted on kaidaws. They sat, as was their habit, leaning forward with their heads close to their mounts' heads, as if communion was in progress. The foot phagors clustered against the flanks of the kaidaws, shoulders hunched. Nearby boulders were not more still.

The cougher coughed again. Aoz Roon threw off his spear and called to his men.

They climbed along the crest of the ridge, to stare at the enemy in dismay.

In response, the phagors made a sudden move. Their strangely jointed limbs geared themselves from immobility to action with no intermediate stage. The shallow lake had checked their advance. They had a well-known aversion to water, but times were changing; their harneys said "Forward." The sight of thirty human glimmers at their mercy decided them. They charged.

One of the three mounted brutes swung a sword above his head. With a churring cry, he kicked his kaidaw, and mount and rider burst forward. The other brutes followed as one, whether mounted or running. Forward they dashed — into the waters of the shallow lake.

Panic scattered the women. Now that their adversary was almost on them, they ran hither and thither between the ridges. Some climbed one side, some the other, making small sharp noises of despair, like birds in distress.

Only Shay Tal remained where she was, facing the charge, and Vry and Amin Lim clung to her in terror, hiding their faces.

"Run, you fool woman!" bellowed Aoz Roon, coming down the ridge at a run.

Shay Tal did not hear his voice above the shrieks and the furious splashing. She stood firm at the end of the fish lake and flung out her arm, as if gesturing to the phagor horde to halt.

Then the transformation. Then the moment that ever after in the annals of Oldorand would be referred to as the miracle of Fish Lake.

Some claimed later that a shrilling note rang through the frosty air, some said a high voice spoke, some vowed Wutra struck.

The whole group of marauders, sixteen in number, had entered the lake, led by the three mounted stallions. Their rage drove them into the alien element, they were thigh deep in it, churning it up with the fury of their charge, when the entire lake froze.

One moment it was an absolutely still liquid, lying, because undisturbed, unfrozen at three degrees below freezing point.

The next moment, disturbed, it became solid. Kaidaws and phagors all were locked in its embrace. One kaidaw fell, never to rise again. The others froze where they were, and their riders froze with them, hemmed in ice. The stallions behind, brandishing their arms — all were trapped, held in the grip of the element they had invaded. None took as much as one further step. None could fight free to gain the safety of the shore. Soon, their veins froze within their bodies, despite the ancient biochemistries that coloured their bloodstream and protected it from the cold. Their coarse white coats became further sheathed in rime, their glaring eyes frosted over.

What was organic became one with the great inorganic world that ruled.

The tableau of furious death was absolute, carved from ice. Above it, white birds wheeled and dipped, crying with gaping beaks, finally making off to the east in desolate flight.

Next morning, three people rose up early from a skin bivouac. Powdery snow had fallen during the night, giving the wilderness a peppery appearance. Freyr ascended from the horizon, casting watery purple shadows over the plain. Several minutes later, the second faithful sentinel also struggled free into Wutra's realm.

By then Aoz Roon, Laintal Ay, and Oyre were on their feet, beating and stamping circulation into their limbs. They coughed but were otherwise silent. After looking at each other without speaking, they moved forward. Aoz Roon stepped out onto the lake of ice, which rang beneath his tread.

The three of them walked across to the frozen tableau.

They stared at it almost in disbelief. Before them was a monumental piece of statuary, fine in detail, wild in imagination. One kaidaw was almost under the hoofs of the other two, the greater part of its bulk submerged by brittle waves, its head rearing up in fear, its nostrils distended. Its rider struggled for control, half fallen from its back, terrible in immobility.

All the figures were caught in mid-action, many with weapons raised, eyes staring ahead to the shore they would never reach. All were encased in rime. They formed a monument to brutality.

Finally, Aoz Roon nodded and spoke. His voice was subdued.

"It did happen. Now I believe. Let's get back."

The miracle of Year 24 was confirmed.

He had sent the rest of the party back to Oldorand the previous evening, under Dathka's leadership. Only after he had slept could he believe he did not dream the incident.

Nobody else said anything. They had been saved by a miracle; the thought dazed their minds, silenced their tongues. They trudged away from the alarming sculpture without another word.

Once they were back in Oldorand, Aoz Roon ordered one of his slaves to be taken by two hunters to Fish Lake, to the site of the miracle. When the slave had seen the tableau with his own eyes, his hands were lashed behind his back, he was faced towards the south, and booted on his way. Back in Borlien, he would tell his fellows that a powerful sorceress watched over Oldorand.

© Brian Aldiss

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### Characters and terms

in order of appearance

Freyr-dawn Freyr and Batalix are the two stars around which *Helliconia* orbits in a binary system.

Aoz Roon the empire-builder who rules Oldorand.

Shay Tal an early feminist who founds an "academy of learning".

Dol Sakil Aoz Roon's woman.

Laintal Ay a descendant of Yutis who represents gentleness and humanity.

Borlienians neighbouring human nation — the enemy across the river.

Tanth Ein Aoz Roon's lieutenant.

Wutra god of the skies.

Ancipitals phagors (the species with two sharp edges — from their two-edged horns).

Kaidaws yak-like but fast steeds.

Harneys brains.

glitter adult female phagor.

Vry an apprentice sorceress.

Amin Lim attendant of Vry.

Oyre adult male phagor.

Oyre daughter of Aoz Roon.

Dathka silent friend of Laintal Ay.

If you want anything in Barley you go to see Nance and George; between them they can find anyone who does anything, or sells it or sometimes has a bit of this to exchange for a bit of that. They know everyone in the village and for miles around, they relay advice, information and news.

Nancy runs her family and the village shop and delivers meals-on-wheels and is the Secretary of the W.I. George is caretaker of the village hall, a spare-time carpenter and handyman, a keeper of ferrets, shooter of pigeons and crows. He knows where and when you can get bales of straw, second-hand chickens, wire, shoes, day-old bantams and green walnuts, retriever puppies, marrow plants and well-rotted manure. He has helped us out of trouble with our septic-tank overflow and a jackdaw-blocked chimney, got us a cheap garden shed and wrung the necks of sick hens. George is very tall and

very thin. Nance is tiny, brittle-looking as a sparrow, she have never seen either of them sitting down.

They have a stream running through the bottom of their garden, and, in spite of the ferrets, they rear orphaned leverets and ducklings and injured tawny owls. There is generally a make-shift cage or wire-run about the place, and a notice on garage or shed door saying "Do not open".

I like to go and see them, they are good people to be with. And so, naturally, when I needed to locate a regular supply of wood for the stove, I went to ask them. "Man you want," George said, "is Amos Ash."

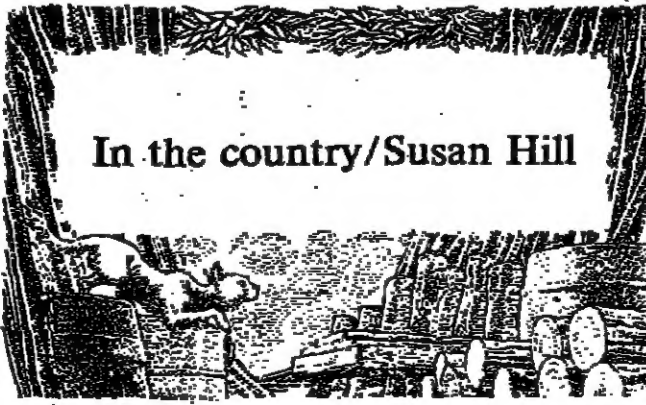
"Green bungalow High Halk." Right. I reached the gate. "Only trouble is," he threw over his shoulder, "he'll not answer his door."

High Halk lies at the top of the ridge that runs above Barley for seven miles and overlooks all the villages of the Fen, and beyond. You go

past the pond and then up a steep slope between overhanging trees, along a track which is a good place for blackberries in autumn and elderberries in June, and where the ground is deeply scored with the marks of horseshoes, for the ridge is a glorious place to ride over. Over a stile, and then, abruptly, you are out on top.

This was a perfect day for being up there, the sky clear and cloudless, so that I could see for miles on all sides. The wind made a high, keening sound. On either side of the ridge itself are open fields, unfenced and at this time of year either ploughed or left to grass. Flocks of plovers were feeding and I saw several pheasants scurry for cover.

I walked past the farm. No sign of a bungalow. So I went back and asked a man mending a post. He nodded towards the slope to the right, behind the farm building, regulations and green belt conservation got on when



### Mr Ash, the woodman

"Doesn't answer his door."

I went along a scruffy path towards an ugly, green-roofed, pebble-dashed bungalow set in a clearing just in front of the copse, the sort of house that was built just before planning permission was introduced and green belt conservation got

stricter. In front and on two sides was a sort of yard. Old water butts and oil drums and piles of assorted stakes, poles and logs, were littered about. This cats streaked away in all directions, and flattened themselves under doors. The net curtains at the windows were yellow, the

paintwork flaking. A dog began to howl, and hurl itself at some closed doors.

I knocked once, hurriedly, and when no one came, scribbled my name and address on an old envelope with "Please contact about logs", and pushed it through the letter flap. A snarl on the other side, a body hit the door, and my note disappeared. I ran, determined that I would look elsewhere for my wood supplies.

For two weeks we used anthracite on the stove and I hated it, hated the smell, the smuts, the nasty black piles of the stuff filling the storehouse. Then, one afternoon, the doorbell rang.

"Ash," he said. He wore a cap with the peak at the back of his head, and a raincoat with a piece of knotted string for a belt. String tied up his trousers at the knees. He was small and his face was the colour and texture of dried-out bark. At the top of the steps was a wooden hand-cart with long handles. I began to

explain that we had a greedy stove and would need lorry-loads of logs. He gave me a pitying look. "Wants to sample, doesn't he?"

"Well, yes..."

"Let's have a look at 'em." He came inside, opened the top of the stove, blew inside it, banged down the lid. Went outside again, glanced up at the chimney. Nodded. "You don't want nothing green, Tar," he said. "Seven and six," and then another, "Birch," he said, "nine bob," and then a third, "Apple," he said, "and them's for your hearth, you don't waste apple on that stove. Nine bob."

It is astonishing how completely I have forgotten the L.S.D. system. Seven and sixpence? Nine bob? I don't know how Mr Ash goes on with his shopping for he will have nothing whatsoever to do with the decimal system, and I have a struggle when he leaves the bit of old cigarette packet in the letter box that reads, "Wood £11 17/6."

He comes on alternate Mondays in winter, starting and stopping the deliveries when he himself decides, in accordance with the weather. He drops the logs into the shed, pushes his account through the door, closes the gate. He rarely speaks and his cap is always backwards. I thought he had a low opinion of us and our overfed, hearth-rug cats. But at Christmas there was a gift, a great cherry log, with a sprig of holly stuck into the bark, left outside the back door. It burned evenly and steadily, as sweetly as the most fragrant pipe tobacco, scenting the whole house, and I was secretly pleased to discover from George and Nance that Mr Ash only haunts out those to a few, favoured customers.

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These articles are edited extracts from *The Magic Apple Tree* by Susan Hill, to be published by Hamish Hamilton on April 29.



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### ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

**SATURDAY SPRING CLASSICS** Royal Philharmonic Or-  
chestra. Jukka Joensuu (cond). John Ogden (piano).  
Sibelius: Violin Concerto. Tchaikovsky: Piano Concerto No. 1.  
Ravel: Piano Concerto. 7.30 p.m. Tickets: £2.50, £3.50, £4.50, £5.50, £6.50, £7.50, £8.50, £9.50, £10.50, £11.50, £12.50, £13.50, £14.50, £15.50, £16.50, £17.50, £18.50, £19.50, £20.50, £21.50, £22.50, £23.50, £24.50, £25.50, £26.50, £27.50, £28.50, £29.50, £30.50, £31.50, £32.50, £33.50, £34.50, £35.50, £36.50, £37.50, £38.50, £39.50, £40.50, £41.50, £42.50, £43.50, £44.50, £45.50, £46.50, £47.50, £48.50, £49.50, £50.50, £51.50, £52.50, £53.50, £54.50, £55.50, £56.50, £57.50, £58.50, £59.50, £60.50, £61.50, £62.50, £63.50, £64.50, £65.50, £66.50, £67.50, £68.50, £69.50, £70.50, £71.50, £72.50, £73.50, £74.50, £75.50, £76.50, £77.50, £78.50, £79.50, £80.50, £81.50, £82.50, £83.50, £84.50, £85.50, £86.50, £87.50, £88.50, £89.50, £90.50, £91.50, £92.50, £93.50, £94.50, £95.50, £96.50, £97.50, £98.50, £99.50, £100.50, £101.50, £102.50, £103.50, £104.50, £105.50, £106.50, £107.50, £108.50, £109.50, £110.50, £111.50, £112.50, £113.50, £114.50, £115.50, £116.50, £117.50, £118.50, £119.50, 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# Shoparound with Beryl Downing

## Part 2 Guide to getting things mended

Part two of Shoparound's directory introduces you to experts who will repair and mend your Meissen, refurbish your Persian carpet, cello.

Most restorers are the recommenders of readers who have been pleased with their craftsman's work. These are themselves and have been sent to — these are interesting service. All have been contacted by the very high standard of work expected by Shoparound readers.

Thank you all for your suggestions. This is not included could not be contacted in time for inclusion.

### Cane and rush

● **Cumbria:** (R) Miranda Holmes-Smith, Lawson Cottage, Renwick, Near Penrith. (076 883 402). All patterns cane from 17p per hole. More for complicated curved pieces. Can arrange collection from Cumbria to South Scotland.

● **Derbyshire:** (R) Joan Gilbert, 50 Ashbourne Road, Derby (Derby 44563). Antique chairs, bedsteads, sofas, suitcases, etc. All patterns. Bedsteads, chairs from £15. English rush seats from £20. No sea-grass or synthetics, work done for stately homes and dealers. No delivery.

● **Hertfordshire:** (R) Centre of Restoration & Art, 20 Folly Lane, St Albans. (St Albans 51555). Antique or modern chairs, cane, many patterns and sizes. Traditional 6-way around £18.40. Also blind cane. Team of 12 also restore pictures and antique dolls. Will travel to large commissions.

● **Kent:** Tenterden Rushcraft, Rear of 90 High Street, Tenterden 3326. All cane patterns from 20p a hole (average seat £16 with beading). Real rush from £35. No synthetic rush from £25. No collection.

● **Merseyside, Liverpool:** (R) Neville Hyman, Wellington Crafts, 70a Oxford Road, Waterloo. (051-920 5511). Berge specialist. All cane patterns from £8 for bedroom chair seat in standard 6-way; Rush £9.50 to £14. Also sea-grass. Antique and modern. Will collect within 50 miles.

● **London:** (R) Harry Serailian, 79 Morrison Way, Edgware (01-952 6432). Antique or modern chairs, cane, rush, sea-grass, etc. All patterns. Will collect within 10 miles.

● **Oxfordshire:** Upton Craft, Upton Stoves, Fieldside, Upton, near Didcot. (Blewbury 80263). Ann Denny works in cane from 14p per hole and in English rush from £10 per sq. ft. Hilary Melling seats in sea-grass from £8.50 for a stool and in various colours of cord from £10.50. Small woodwork repairs can be arranged. Also jewelry repairs. This is a small cooperative with a pleasant helpful community atmosphere. Charges made for collecting.

● **Suffolk:** (R) George Sneed, Bacon's Barn, St Michael, Bungay. (St. Cross 282). All types of cane from 11p per sq. inch (standard 18p). Traditional English and Continental rush patterns. Seat 17in x 15in £23.50. Delivery anywhere — scale of charges in brochure. Please send for one.

● **Surrey:** (R) P. Dodd, 91 Merton Way, West Molesey, (979 6635). This cane specialist is partially blind and works to recommended RNIB charges. Prices are generally lower than usual. Cane from 13p per hole, rush from 25p per inch. Press cane (already made-up cane) done on modern chairs. No delivery.

● **Sussex:** (R) Alan Upholstery, Unit A1 Oakdene, Cowfold, (Cowfold 242). Cowfold from 16p. All cane rush from £20. Seagale, Reading. Antique and modern cane done respraying. Will travel and in London and South. Where (R) Alan and Wendy, Barn Cottage, Elstead, (Aurist 6762). All types of cane including "the ones a lot of people can't do". Bedroom seat from £12. Rush seating £16. Also modern bedsteads, chairs and backs. Free collection within 10 mile radius. Will travel anywhere in Sussex, Hampshire, Surrey.

### China

● **Berkshire:** (R) F.W. Child, 78 Kidmore End Road, Wadsworth, (Reading 482737). Restoration of antique and modern porcelain and papier mache, remodelling and painting. From £5 for a small chip to £30 for a complicated piece. Local collection and delivery.

● **Corwall:** (R) Clare Beauchamp, Trevince, Redruth, Cornwall. (St Day 820355). Mainly antique porcelain, some enamel painting — remodelling and painting. Costs based on time. Local delivery. Pieces accepted by mail.

● **Hampshire:** (R) Just The Thing, High Street, Hartley Wintney. (025 126 3393). Sue Carpenter accepts china repairs at her shop. Mainly antique porcelain, modelling and painting. Minimum charge £5. No delivery.

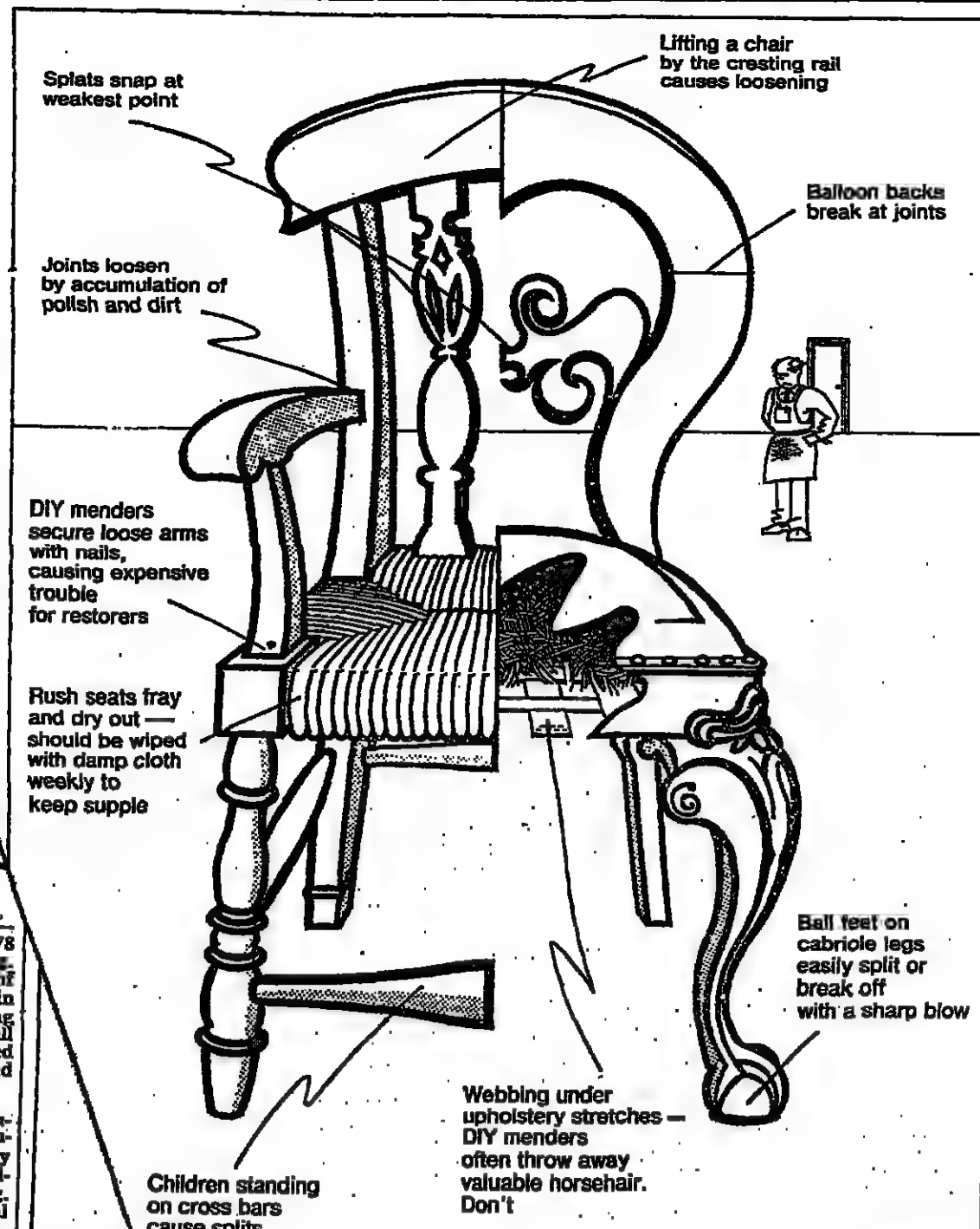
● **London:** (R) Bonita Emms, 45 Gunterstone Road, W14. (01-603 7105). Mainly antique porcelain, some glass. Figures and remodelling a specialty, mainly for antique dealers, some private clients. Rin chips from £7. Complicated pieces around £75. Will deliver in London area.

● **London:** (R) Griselda Laroche, 63 Cromwell Road, SW7. (01-370 5695). Restoration of porcelain, pottery and marble, antique and modern. Team of five — quick service. Local delivery.

● **London:** (R) Studio 1D, 1 Kensington Church Walk, W8. (01-937 7583). All types of restoration of antique and modern porcelain, invisible mending and modelling, also visible conservation for museums. From £2 a chip. No delivery. Also runs a beginners' course at £180 — four a year, next one starts April 26.

● **Middlesex:** (R) Kate Lane Roberts, 38 Bridgeman Road, Teddington. (01-977 8655). Mainly porcelain, some glass and enamel. Remodels and repairs. Chips from £5. Figurine repairs around £30. Delivery in London.

● **Scotland:** (R) Mrs R.M. Wilson, Maid Marich's Workshop, Baledgarno Farm House, Inchture, Perthshire. (Inchture 245). Antique and modern porcelain and pottery. Remodels and repairs. Small chips from £5. No delivery.



● **Sussex:** (R) Len Brown, Fairlight, Cocking Lane, Wadhurst. (Wadhurst 3432). Mainly antique porcelain and pottery. Remodels and repairs. Works for dealers and private clients. Also researches interesting pieces. Local delivery if necessary.

● **Wiltshire:** (R) G. Roy, Pewsey. (Pewsey 34). Antique and modern porcelain. Remodels small pieces (hand for instance) and paints. Works for dealers and private clients. No delivery.

● **Mrs J. Winch, sport House, Malmesbury. (Malmesbury 2113). Antique and modern porcelain and ceramic. Restoration of antique Georgian footstools, "mundane soap dish lid", modelling and painting. Works for dealers and private clients. No delivery.**

### Furniture

● **Avon:** (R) Timothy Dewey, 10 College, Keston, Bath. (Bath 26810). Will do "anything in wood". Restoration of antique for BADA dealers within 10 miles, but also takes "the old kitchen chair" for private clients when required. Will travel 70 or 80 miles if the piece is interesting.

● **Berkshire:** (R) G. Reese, Church House, East Grafton, Burghage, near Newbury. (Burghage 810394). Restoration of all kinds of antique furniture. French polishing, replaces desk

leathers — "antique restorers first, cabinet makers second". Delivery within 60 miles.

● **Cleveland:** Amos Swift & Co, Boat House Lane, Stockton-on-Tees. (0642 65241). A company of wood turners who turn chair legs, finials, baluster rails, bed posts to match existing ones or to specification. No actual repairs, but useful for anyone needing spare parts.

● **Devon:** (R) Tony Vernon, 15 Follett Road, Topsham, Exeter. (Topsham 4635). All antiques restored. Will reupholster, refinish, French or wax polish. Also a cabinet maker and joiner who will rebuild, whatever the condition of the piece. Delivery within 50 miles of Exeter.

● **Dorset:** R. C. Bagnell, Dorset Antique Restorer, Stables Farm, Bradford Peverell, Dorchester. (Martinstown 312). General restoration work on all types of antique furniture, including gliding, jannanning, lacquering and marquetry. Boule work a specialty. Delivery within 25 miles.

● **London:** (R) Richard Holmes, Homecraft, 1 Baronsmead Road, Barnes, SW13. (01-748 6816). Furniture of any period restored. Cabinet work, will turn simple legs, no upholstery. Specialist in chairs. Delivery in Central London area.

● **Northumberland:** (R) Ron Archer, Glenwhetl Coach House, Greenhead. (Gillhead 212). All aspects of high quality antique restoration — gliding, carving, polishing, metalwork — can rebuild a piece completely. Favourite period, walnut of the 1720s. Works for dealers and private clients. Delivery according to importance of piece.

● **Oxfordshire:** (R) The Desk Shop, 41 St Clements, (Oxford 45524). Restoration of desks and other antiques and reproductions. Remake plinths, missing drawers, reattach insets and tooling, old handles and knobs matched. Reupholstering of 4ft x 2ft pedestal desk from £45. Will travel all over south-east. Delivery arranged anywhere.

● **Keat:** (R) Spencer and Spencer, 1A Page Heath Villa, Bromley. (01-464 6906). French polishing, upholstery, simple repairs (not cabinet making), reupholstering of tables. Can arrange for reupholstering of leather, leather replacement, brass handles cast, porcelain restored. Will line display cabinets with moire from £30. Collection within 10 miles.

● **London:** (R) Richard Holmes, Homecraft, 1 Baronsmead Road, Barnes, SW13. (01-748 6816). Furniture of any period restored. Cabinet work, will turn simple legs, no upholstery. Specialist in chairs. Delivery in Central London area.

● **Northumberland:** (R) Ron Archer, Glenwhetl Coach House, Greenhead. (Gillhead 212). All aspects of high quality antique restoration — gliding, carving, polishing, metalwork — can rebuild a piece completely. Favourite period, walnut of the 1720s. Works for dealers and private clients. Delivery according to importance of piece.

● **Oxfordshire:** (R) The Desk Shop, 41 St Clements, (Oxford 45524). Restoration of desks and other antiques and reproductions. Remake plinths, missing drawers, reattach insets and tooling, old handles and knobs matched. Reupholstering of 4ft x 2ft pedestal desk from £45. Will travel all over south-east. Delivery arranged anywhere.

● **Keat:** (R) Spencer and Spencer, 1A Page Heath Villa, Bromley. (01-464 6906). French polishing, upholstery, simple repairs (not cabinet making), reupholstering of tables. Can arrange for reupholstering of leather, leather replacement, brass handles cast, porcelain restored. Will line display cabinets with moire from £30. Collection within 10 miles.

● **London:** (R) Richard Holmes, Homecraft, 1 Baronsmead Road, Barnes, SW13. (01-748 6816). Furniture of any period restored. Cabinet work, will turn simple legs, no upholstery. Specialist in chairs. Delivery in Central London area.

● **Scotland:** (R) John D. Blackwood, 36 Main Street, Doune, Perthshire. (Doun 684). High quality restoration mainly of Georgian and Queen Anne furniture for dealers, but has private clients as well. Delivery within 50 miles.

● **Somerset:** Castle House Antiques, Bennetts Field, Wincanton. (0963 33884). High class restoration and cabinet making. Inlaid veneer, lacquer, boulevards. Will collect and deliver all over south.

● **Suffolk:** (R) Roy Clement-Smith, Mendlesham Furniture Workshop, Elms Farm, Mendlesham. (Mendlesham 2107). All restoration to antique furniture including re-upholstery and some French polishing. Makers of reproductions of the Mendlesham chair, first produced in the village 200 years ago — now hand-made in fruitwoods for £240. Collection by arrangement within 20 miles.

● **Sussex:** (R) B. A. Robinson, Archway Antiques, 42 High Street, Hursley, (Hursley 832741). Restoration of antique, wax polished furniture. No upholstery. Wax and French polish, some inlay. Free estimates within 5 miles, or travelling expenses.

● **West Midlands:** Regency House, 218 Maryvale Road, Bourneville, Birmingham. (021-458 3391). Restoration, including cabinet work and upholstery, to antique furniture and clocks, cases and movements. Also modern furniture, rush and cane, glass resilvering. Can arrange for picture restoration, oils and watercolours. Delivery within 10 miles — farther for important pieces.

● **Yorkshire:** (R) Mervyn and Angela Slater, Ald Mill, Silver Street, Askring, Leyburn. (Wensleydale 50354). Repairs and restoration of antique and modern furniture. Upholstery mended and replaced, repairs to legs and backs. Repair of bedheads, screens, piano stools — "Willing to tackle most things." Delivery within 30 miles.

### Oriental rugs

● **London:** (R) Caroline Bosly, 13 Princess Road, NW1. (01-722 7608). Major repairs and cleaning of all types of hand-made Oriental rugs and carpets. Rock-bottom prices, so no visiting, but can arrange for large items to be picked up.

● **Dorset:** J. T. H. Green, Whitcombe Farm, Beaminster. (Beaminster 862366). Repairs to Oriental rugs up to 11ft x 5ft — not carpets. Sides and ends repaired from £50. Holes worn by furniture depending on complexity. Will travel anywhere or go to Beaminster and "ask for the retired doctor" — everyone within 20 miles will know where to point you.

### Pearls and beads

● **Dorset:** Mrs J. W. Phillips, 7 Brownsea Road, Sandbanks, Poole. (Canford Cliffs 709800). Beads and imitation pearls re-threaded from £1.50 per row. Some matching, some new. Some possible. Cultured and real pearls also re-threaded, not matched.

● **London:** Sloane Pearls, 49a Sloane Street, W1. (01-235 9163). Cultured, freshwater and real pearls (no pearl beads) re-threaded from £4.50 without knots, £5.50 with knots, 16in length. Also graduated pearl necklaces re-styled and interspersed with other semi-precious beads and modern clasps.

### Pictures

● **Dorset:** (R) Gordon Barrett, 23 Charles Street, Dorchester. (0305 63422). Three-generation family

business with customers as far afield as Belgium and France. Gordon Barrett has 52 years' experience of oil and watercolour restoration. Work done for museums and famous collections.

● **London:** Kate Colleran, 17 Frogall, NW3. (01-435 4652). Conservator of works of art on paper — prints, drawings and watercolours. All materials used are conservation approved. Sixteenth century hand coloured maps onwards. Author of booklet *The Collector's Guide to Prints and Drawings*, to be published by the Royal Watercolour Society next month.

● **Surrey:** (R) Guildford Galleries Ltd, Cranley Court, 59 Cranley Road, Guildford. (Guildford 61646). Cleaning, restoration, conservation of watercolours, drawings and prints. Victorian watercolour, 16in x 20in from about £30. Customers seen by telephone appointment only.

● **Sussex:** Brunswick House, 50 Grand Parade, Brighton. (Brighton 603388/9). John Cavell is an art dealer who also cleans, relines, restores re-frames oils and watercolours, mainly from eighteenth century to 1930s. Reckons to be "a lot cheaper than a lot of people". Visits in Sussex and Surrey without charge.

### Textiles

● **London:** Anna Christian Textile Workshop, 18 Artesian Road, W2. (01-229 2855). All old textiles, wall hangings, clothes. Some tapestry work (not the finest). Has access to old silks, velvets, tapestries from eighteenth century and will make cushions from them. Visits in London area.

Jenny Lake Tapestries, 23 Camden Hill Square, W8. (01-789 0376). Conservation and renovation of all forms of quality antique tapestries, small to wall size. Also embroidered hangings. Will travel anywhere to conserve large items.

(R) Lunn's Antiques, 86 New King's Road, Parsons Green, SW6. (01-736 4638). Small repair work undertaken — to antique lace bedspreads, cushions, clothes. Also cleaning and removal of iron mould. No travel.

Scott & Clarke, World's End Studios, 134 Lots Road, SW10. (01-352 8950 or 229 8209). Conservation of textiles and tapestries. Cleaning of English stump work, fans, feather clothes. Work for museums, collectors, stately homes. Some visits.

● **Middlesex:** (R) Janet Jovitt, 30 Alexandra Road, Twickenham. (01-892 3818). High quality textile conservation to all types, tapestries to lace. Preparation for display of museum quality objects. Darning and mending of christening robes. Trained at Victoria and Albert Museum. The V & A, in identical, will add to your textiles on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm telling you the importance of the piece and whether they are worth professional conservation.

● **Surrey:** Mrs Pat Jones, 89 Maybury Road, Woking (Woking 63805). Repairs to or remakes of duvets, conversion of old elder-downs, cushions or sleeping bags into continental quilts. Any sizes made, single £25, double £36. Prefer to see customers personally, but will deal by mail. Collection within 20 miles.

### Violins

● **Hampshire:** Paul Bickle, The Violin Workshop, Amery Farm, Amery Hill, Alton. (04893-5292). Routine adjustments and fittings to violins, violas and cellos and major repair work. No travelling, but undertakes work for London dealers.

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## Gardening/Roy Hay Equipped for the job

When this could be done from ground level with a "long arm" pruner. There are various types on the market up to 9ft long; these may also be fitted with a small saw which will cut branches too thick for the pruner blade to cope with.

While there is obviously much to be said for equipping a gardener with machines or tools to enable him to do the work more quickly or with less fatigue, the thoughtful employer will often buy a tool such as an electric hedge trimmer and use it himself — he lets the gardener do the more tedious work of raking up and

carrying away the trimmings. Thinking about trimming and pruning, this year there is obviously going to be a great deal of lopping and cutting out of stems and branches killed by the frosts. We will not know for certain what trees, shrubs or hardy plants have been killed in whole or in part until well into the summer but assuredly there will be much debris to be disposed of — the new Cavendish Electric Shredder is going to be of tremendous help with this work.

Quite often there is no convenient place for a bonfire and if smoke should pour across a road and cause an accident, you would be liable for it. Instead of having to burn all this woody material or cart it off to the local council dump, it can all be shredded, swiftly and used either in a compost heap or as a moisture-retaining, weed-suppressing mulch on the garden.

It has a powerful 1600w electric motor, and twiggy material up to pencil thickness is fed into the top of the machine to be swiftly shredded and ejected into a plastic bag or other container placed beneath the machine. Branches up to 1in diameter may be fed into a side funnel in the machine and swiftly shredded. We have been fascinated and delighted with the way it has disposed of our garden rubbish.

The shredded material, if used as a mulch, would, I feel,

need to be given a dressing of, say, a handful of sulphate of ammonia to a square yard of a manure or compost. It is deep to take care of denitrification problems as one would with sawdust or pulverized bark. It costs about £170 and in case of difficulty in finding a local stockist it is distributed by Cavendish Management Ltd., Tudor House, Llanvannor Road, London, NW2 2AR.

This I consider to be the most exciting piece of equipment to appear so far this year and of interest not only for owners of large gardens but of small or medium-sized areas where rubbish disposal is often a real problem.

Many of us sat at the feet of that great gardener Gertrude Jekyll 40 or more years ago and absorbed much wisdom from her informative and delightfully written books. Today they are collectors' pieces. So it is with much pleasure that we welcome a reprint by the Antique Collectors Club of her classic *Wood and Garden* which was first published in 1899. This edition is enhanced by 32 beautiful and apposite colour illustrations and, allowing for changed conditions in availability and the cost of garden labour, Miss Jekyll's advice about so many aspects of the garden is as valid today as it was 80-odd years ago. The plants do not change.

Her approach to naturalness and her revolt against formality have continued unabated over the years, accentuated by two world wars and continuous inflation. So much of her advice may still be followed, perhaps on a less grand scale in smaller areas and with minimal help. The original edition, when you can find a copy, will cost you around £25 to £35. This reprint at £12.50 is a bargain for those who have the imagination to scale down Gertrude Jekyll's ideas to their own situation.

Those may not have been the good old days for the gardeners living on £1 a week but they were great days for gardens.

The Music Room from \$64.90

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Two weeks ago when I was discussing motor mowers I mentioned that I felt sure many large gardens were undercapitalized — that they were making do with inadequate, undersized or old-fashioned equipment.

In too many gardens I fear the owner or the hired help is wasting time trotting up and down large lawns behind, say, a 14, 17 or even 18in mower when he really ought to be using one several sizes larger. Remember, about up to one-third of the time spent cutting a lawn may be taken up by emptying the grass catcher — at a rough estimate, if it takes 30 minutes to cut a given area with a 14in machine, it could probably be cut in 24 minutes or less with a 17in machine and possibly in around 18 minutes with a 20in mower.

If you pay somebody to cut your grass it is a simple matter of arithmetic to work out how much a larger machine will save in labour costs and how soon this saving will offset the cost of the larger model. For example, if it takes three hours to cut your grass (and you would normally cut it 24 times a year) this adds up to 72 hours' cutting time. If your garden help costs £3 an hour, the grass mowing for the season costs £216.

If you buy an Atco 14in machine it costs £235; their 20in machine costs £345 — a difference of £110. If you save 40 per cent of the cutting time with the larger

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Colourful hardy perennials, exciting alpine, fascinating cacti and many more plants including hardy shrubs, bamboos, ornamental grasses, hardy ferns, dwarf flowering shrubs and seedling clematis and roses . . . all now offered in BRESSINGHAM GARDENS NEW Spring 1982 list — together with a FREE copy of BRESSINGHAM GARDENS catalogue (worth 50p).

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## Bridge/Jeremy Flint

## Beware, rabbits

Bridge can be an exasperating game. For a change you cut a good player against two rabbits. To your mortification, the rabbits, assisted by a generous lot of luck, run rings round you. A recent rubber of this sort reminded me of an old time expert's favourite aphorism. He would glower at each of his opponents in turn, and snort. "Lovely bidding, lovely play".

Love all.

Dealer West.

♠ A109754

♥ K72

♦ A109754

♣ K72

♠ A109754

♥ K72

♦ A109754

♣ K72

♠ A109754

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♣ K72

opinion of his play, which was equally misconceived. Superficially, it is an even money guess which way the spade is fished. But if West has 4xxx South has, no chance. Whereas if East has the spade length, declarer can normally still succeed by a trump reduction.

North-South game. Dealer North.

♠ A109754

♥ K72

♦ A109754

♣ K72

♠ A109754

♥ K72

♦ A109754

♣ K72

♠ A109754

♥ K72

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♥ K72

## The Times Cook/Shona Crawford Poole

## Seasonal salads



Summer salad days seem no nearer now than they did at the beginning of winter. The lettuce I saw this week were unappealing and expensive, tomatoes a tasteless extravagance, and the thought of the ubiquitous coleslaw downright dreary. True, there is handsome imported asparagus to be had in some places, and dainty purple artichokes too. But for something crunchy to eat raw one has to look a little harder.

Some of the celery around at the moment is splendidly crisp and tasty, especially the early kind known in the trade as "dirty". Chopped up with apple and mixed with mayonnaise, celery makes a good salad to serve with cold ham or pork.

For first courses there are plenty of ingredients for traditional French crudités, selections of grated or chopped vegetables, each mixed with its own dressing. Serve small quantities of three or more varieties on individual plates. Alternatively, larger chunks of raw or blanched vegetables can be offered with one or more dressings to dip them in. Mix and match carrots, celery, cauliflower, sweet peppers, cucumber, mushrooms and spring onions with chicory or any crisp greenstuff.

**Raw beetroot salad**  
Serves four to six  
450 g (1 lb) raw beetroot

1 tablespoon white vinegar  
4 tablespoons light vegetable oil, peanut, sunflower or safflower  
1 teaspoon sugar

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Wear rubber gloves to prevent the beetroot staining your hands while you peel them with a sharp knife. Grate the raw beetroot very finely.

Combine the wine vinegar, oil and sugar and season the dressing to taste with salt and plenty of freshly ground black pepper. Stir the dressing into the grated beetroot and chill the salad for an hour or more before serving.

**Celeriac salad**  
Serves four to six  
450 g (1 lb) raw celeriac

4 tablespoons real mayonnaise  
4 tablespoons double cream, whipped to soft peaks  
1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice

1 teaspoon dry English mustard  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Bring about 600 ml (1 pint) of water to the boil in a medium sized saucepan. Peel the celeriac and cut it in thin slices. Immediately drop the sliced celeriac into the boiling water and blanch it for three minutes. Drain and cut the slices into narrow julienne strips.

Combine the mayonnaise, cream, lemon juice, mustard and salt and freshly ground black pepper and mix them well together. Add the celeriac and fold it into the dressing. Chill the salad for an hour or more before serving.

**Cucumber salad**  
Serves four to six  
1 medium sized cucumber

2 tablespoons salt  
2 tablespoons white wine or cider vinegar

Use a very sharp knife to peel the cucumber, taking off the pith and membrane at the same time. Cut the cucumber in thin slices. Remove any seeds and arrange the orange slices in a shallow dish. Peel the cucumber and either chop it finely or slice it in thin rings. Sprinkle the onion over the oranges. Nicoise olives are too difficult to stone, but if you are using any other kind, stoning them is an optional refinement. Scatter the olives over the oranges and onion.

Salt the mixture lightly because the olives will already be salty. Sprinkle it with a little cayenne pepper and drizzle the olive oil over the surface. Serve immediately.

6 tablespoons light olive oil  
1/2 teaspoon dry English mustard  
1/2 teaspoon sugar

**Freshly ground black pepper**

Cut the cucumber into 7cm (3 inch) lengths and peel each section. Using an apple corer or small knife, remove the seedy centre to leave thick pipes of cucumber flesh. Slice the cucumber into rings about 3mm (1/8 inch) thick. The exact thickness is not crucial. Salt the sliced cucumber and set it aside for half an hour to drain.

Combine the vinegar, oil, mustard, sugar and freshly ground black pepper and mix them well together.

Drain the cucumber rings and pat them dry. Toss them in the dressing to coat each slice. Chill the salad for two or three hours before serving.

**Orange, onion and olive salad**  
Serves six

1 juicy, thin skinned orange  
6 small mild onion  
110g (4 oz) small black olives, preferably Nicoise  
Salt

**Cayenne pepper**

4 tablespoons olive oil

Use a very sharp knife to peel the oranges, taking off the pith and membrane at the same time. Cut the oranges in thin slices. Remove any seeds and arrange the orange slices in a shallow dish. Peel the cucumber and either chop it finely or slice it in thin rings. Sprinkle the onion over the oranges. Nicoise olives are too difficult to stone, but if you are using any other kind, stoning them is an optional refinement. Scatter the olives over the oranges and onion.

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**Orange salad**  
Serves six

1 juicy, thin skinned orange  
6 small mild onion  
110g (4 oz) small black olives, preferably Nicoise  
Salt

**Cayenne pepper**

4 tablespoons olive oil

Use a very sharp knife to peel the oranges, taking off the pith and membrane at the same time. Cut the oranges in thin slices. Remove any seeds and arrange the orange slices in a shallow dish. Peel the cucumber and either chop it finely or slice it in thin rings. Sprinkle the onion over the oranges. Nicoise olives are too difficult to stone, but if you are using any other kind, stoning them is an optional refinement. Scatter the olives over the oranges and onion.

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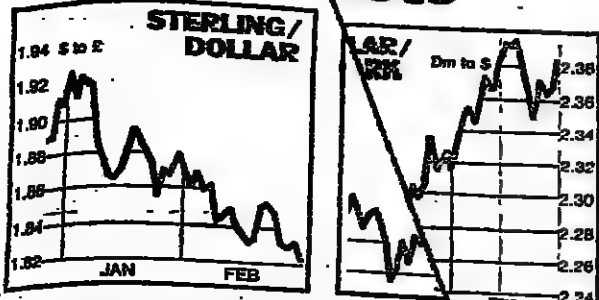
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## BUSINESS NEWS

## Dollar's firm note



The dollar ended the week on a firm note, high of DM2.39. It was helped by the strong US interest rates may not fall in view of the time being. The pound rallied from 1.88 to 1.92, but sentiment continues to be at its low of soft oil price. At the weekly tender the rate fell from 13.62 to 13.28 per cent.

## Fraser to see panel

Sir Hugh Fraser, who severed links with his Fraser family business on Thursday, says he will of Takeover Panel next week over selling the 4.4 per cent of Britain's largest stores group. He revealed last night that he had received one approach for his stake at Harrods group where trading group Loro had already 23.9 per cent and is anxious to resume a takeover. Sir Hugh said: "The approach was from a London-based group. That's all I'm saying." The price offered believed to be 165p a share, a penny less than last night's closing Stock Market price.

## Engineering orders fall

Engineering orders won by United Kingdom companies fell by 16 per cent in the three months to the end of last November, according to government statistics. After a surge of export orders in August, new overseas business fell by 22.5 per cent over the following three months.

## MARKET SUMMARY

## Dismal close to account

## LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 547.3, down 4.5  
FT all-share 316.83, down 3.02  
Bargains 21,885

Shares of British Aerospace were a weak market yesterday, falling 8p to 175p amid reports of a forthcoming bearish circular from brokers Scrimgeour-Kemp Gee.

According to market sources the group may face inland revenue scrutiny over its research and development costs which at present are taken above the line.

At this level the shares stand at the initial price of 175p offered when the shares came to market a year ago.

Shares in Sangers Group, the home-making pharmaceuticals company in which financier Mr Tom Whyte has built up a substantial stake, have been suspended at 48p pending an announcement by the company early next week.

The group made losses of more than £1m in the last year to August and is expected to announce the sale of a big part of its business.

Mr Whyte, the former head of the crashed Triumph Investment Trust, decides to sell it will be at a loss. When the first buying shares in September they stood at more than 80p.

Elsewhere Amersham International provided one of the few bright spots as the account ended in a loss of 11p, but the Prime Minister had apparently dashed hopes of a tax cutting budget.

As the political wrangling continued Amersham rose 5p to 194p and the shares now stand at a 52 premium to their issue price.

The FT Index drifted down throughout the day, closing 4.5 off at 547.3 — a fall on the account of 23.2. With the fall in sterling and the prospect of further pressure on sterling it forecasts of a further slump in demand for oil continues, gilt ended a quiet day with falls of 1%.

Further reflection of the previous day's statement slipped 2p from 325p to 323p while there were losses of 10p apiece for Blue Circle at 480p reflecting the group's Mexican currency problems, and Thorn EMI at 443p after substantial selling in the electricals sector which has recently gone out of favour.

But after weakness prompted by talk that profits forecasts had been revised down and that money would be needed to support its Hongkong operation, BSR the record changer group returned to favour, up 2p at 78p.

The following announcement by management that it was to cut capacity by closing a factory in the West Midlands with the loss of 800 jobs and transfer

of 1,000 to other plants, a further 450 to neighbouring plants.

These plants have been on a three-day week since last October, but the remainder of the group is working normally and the management says that planned expansion in the Far East is on course.

An outstanding feature in the market was the sharp fall at Gill & Duffus 23p off at 143p after the down grading of profit forecasts.

This prompted falls in other overseas traders, with Inchcape 7p off at 301p but Loro was unchanged at 74p.

Trading news gave a 5 1/2p boost to Celtic, taken at 18p after record first half figures.

But ahead of results on Monday Barclays Bank shed 5p to 481p, while Royal Insurance, which is expected to suffer increased underwriting losses as a result of the bad weather in January, shed 7p to 351p.

Speculative interest was given to Guinness Peat after recent share price changes, and the shares put on 5p to 53p.

Vickers rose 1p to 165p after a line of 500,000 shares went through the market. The cleaning group Sketchley suffered a 16p fall to 272p after news of its planned \$22m acquisition in the United States. Meanwhile, European Ferries slipped 1p to 81p after disclosing its plans for a £50 property deal in the United States.

Huntley and Palmer fell 5p to 102p as hopes of a counter to the Rowntree bid receded. Another recent bid favourite, Duple Steel, was also down, shedding 8p to 116p in the absence of any news.

House of Fraser shares reached 172p in early trading on talk that there would be a new takeover attempt by Loro, but finally slipped to 166p, a net 2p fall.

With the exception of interest over the Charterhouse bid for CCB North Sea, oil was again weak, with Shell falling 10p to 336p and continued rights issue speculation pushing Ultramar down 12p to 378p ahead of figures next week.

Gold shares ended with losses of about a dollar, reflecting the depressed bullion price, while tin mining shares reflected the depressed commodity price.

Shares of Kwik Fit hit a new low of 44p, down 1p after strength surrounding its acquisition of former Firestone tyre depots last year, but with no figures due until May and trade reported as reasonable it appears to be simply lack of interest.

North-East based food and drink retailer Amos Hinton remained buoyant at 320p, its 1981-82 high.

After hours trading remained quiet, with a slight rally in oil but banks, insurances and properties remaining at their closing positions.

Equity turnover on February 25 was £192.783m. Gareth David

European cocoa dealers have been awarded settlements totalling \$31m after taking series of disputes with Ghana to arbitration. Most of the disputes concerned the low quality of Ghana cocoa over the last two seasons. The settlements are mainly discounts on previously agreed contract prices. London cocoa sources said that some Ghana cocoa has been the lowest quality for 20 years. The discounts have ranged up to 15 per cent of £200 a tonne off contract prices. Ghana is making renewed efforts to move cocoa from upcountry areas where it is deteriorating.

OTHER EXCHANGES

Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones average 7,548.51, down 31.94

Hongkong: Hang Seng index 1,271.60, up 6.60

MONEY MARKETS

Rates held steady. The Bank of England bought £485m of bills at unchanged rates, having raised its short-term rate forecast from £300m to £450m.

Domestic rates:

base rates 13%

3-month interbank 14 1/4-14 1/2

Euro-currency rates

3-month dollar 14 1/4-15 1/4

3-month DM 10 1/4-9 1/4

3-month FRF 15 1/4-15 1/2

Zinc prices held steady yesterday afternoon on light short-covering prompted by lack of a downward price reaction to news that United States producer Asarco had cut its zinc price by two cents per lb, dealers said. Three-months ended the afternoon at \$439.50, a loss of 1.50 atg from the previous afternoon's carb close.

## Furore over Amersham puts BNOC issue in doubt

By Jonathan Davis and Ronald Pullen

The furore over the Amersham share sale has created new doubts whether the Government will be able to complete the planned flotation of shares in the British National Oil Corporation this year.

The Government's financial advisers, already worried about the success of the issue in the light of tumbling oil prices and the continuing depressed level of oil shares, feel that the political rumpus over Amersham has now made their task even harder.

One said last night that the chances of the BNOC issue being completed before the end of 1982 were now only marginally greater than 50 per cent. The Government has been working towards a sale of 51 per cent of the shares in BNOC's exploration and development activities in the North Sea.

The Government's problem is a fixed price offer for sale of the shares, which is the only method of handling the BNOC flotation.

The size of the issue, still £750m for the issue, is last summer's hopes of the market £1,000m with the fall in oil prices. A tender of £750m and £1m of between £750m and £1m is in the City experts' view.

City experts' view is that the issue is too large to be handled by the Government, which is also a problem for BNOC on the issue.

N. M. Rothschild, which advised the Government on Amersham, is also advising BNOC on the issue. The Government is being advised by S. G. Warburg.

Sales of shares in public companies since May 1979

1979-80	1980-81	1981-82
British Petroleum	22	22
Drake and Scud Holdings	22	22
Suez Finance	22	22
British Aerospace	43	43
1981-82	43	43
British Sugar Corporation	44	44
Cable & Wireless	184	184
American International	184	184
National Freight Company	184	184

\* Before deduction of VAT and stamp duty.  
† Gross proceeds total £25.5m, before payments of £47.3m in respect of interest and dividends.

## New Express group hopes to break even

By Philip Robbins

Dealings in the shares of new publishing group Express Newspapers, which includes Express newspapers, are expected to start next Thursday following details of its separation from parent group Trafalgar House last night.

Trafalgar shareholders will be offered one new share in Fleet for every four they hold in Trafalgar.

But the new group, which will publish the Daily Express, Sunday Express, Daily Star, Morgan-Grampian magazines and the South Wales Argus weekly newspaper, will not include Trafalgar's half share in London's sole evening newspaper, The Standard.

Lord Matthews, £20,000 a year chairman of Fleet, could not get joint owners of The Standard, arch rivals Associated Newspapers headed by Lord Rothermere, to agree on the transfer of the stake.

Fifty per cent of the paper will thus remain with Trafalgar, but Lord Matthews says it is the intention to transfer the shareholding to Fleet.

International Westminster Bank, Sketchley has no borrowings so this brings its debt gearing ratio up to 55 per cent.

With the move came a forecast of Sketchley's pre-tax profits for the year to April 1982 of not less than £6.9m. This is at the top end of forecasts made last year which ranged from £5.2m to £5.2m. A final dividend of 10.42p gross, making a total of 15p, is proposed but failed to cheer with the shares which fell 15p to 273p.

Increased profits, despite bad winter trading, are still coming through from greater efficiency and tight cash control.

Mr Gerald Wightman, chairman, said the last year had been spent searching the United States for the right acquisition but it was only on February 1 that Means was chosen. The deal then took two weeks to conclude, he said.

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Dealing on the London Metal Exchange.

## Tin price fall angers LME

By Michael Prest

Tin prices continued their nosedive yesterday, provoking anger among dealers on the London Metal Exchange and confusion as to the motives of the operator who supported the market until the beginning of the week.

Cash tin closed at £7,195 a tonne, £190 down on the day and no less than £1,690 below the price prevailing a week ago. Three months tin, which at the end of last week was £1,000 less than cash metal, ended yesterday £55 higher than cash tin, also a fall of £190.

The collapse followed a similar decline overnight on the Penang market. Tin prices there suffered the single sharpest fall in the market's history — from £333 — a kilogramme (7.900 a tonne) to £270.7 (7.900 a tonne) — London prices reached their lowest for eight months.

Some dealers welcomed the collapse, despite the hectic trading which ensued, because it decisively ended fears of a squeeze, and gave consumers a chance to return to the market. Others were worried that the mystery buyer had changed tactics and by allowing the price to fall was forcing the International Tin Agreement buffer stock manager to buy metal.

Heavy buying of tin started last July when the cash price was about £6,000 a tonne. The buyer is widely believed to be a producer group headed by Malaysia. In November the operator switched from buying forward contracts to cash contracts and the market went into a backwardation where the cash price is higher than the forward.

The group is thought to have spent more than £400m.

Some users of the market went short in November, convinced that prices were being held artificially high. As the delivery dates loomed at the end of this week the LME authorities took action to avert a corner.

In the event, the buying stopped, and trading yesterday was characterized by persistent and aggressive forward selling of up to 10,000 tonnes of metal. Dealers were confused because they argued that selling in such quantity could only come from the support buyer.

LME members said that the ITA buffer stock manager had not bought tin. Yesterday's Penang price was the agreement floor price, at which the manager is forced to intervene. If he buys more than 5,000 tonnes import controls are introduced.

Mr Alnutt, who has run his company in partnership with his wife for three years, believes this can be found in the soothing melody of astrology, homeopathy, the art of relaxation and mind dynamics.

Similar courses have been run in the United States for some time and it was attending one that gave Mr Alnutt his original spur to set up a service here.

"I found their course far too esoteric but realized the value of what was being done," he says.

Last October he set about organizing his own course with guest speakers who include Dr Robin Pryor-Jones, who runs a private homeopathic practice, and assists at the Royal Homeopathic Hospital in London, and other specialists on each topic.

So far the three pilot courses booked for March and April have found enthusiasm from a variety of organizations and companies.

Between the talks and lectures delegates are invited to have personal consultations with both the resident astrologers and homeopaths. He believes astrology is invaluable because it is able to identify personal strengths and weaknesses and so situations which would highlight or expose those weaknesses can then be avoided.

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## Allnutt cracks a business problem

By Margaret Pagano

Mr Roger Allnutt is so convinced of the efficacy of his "Alternative Business Thinking" that he offers to refund the £639 fee to anyone who can prove that he is not at least 20 per cent more effective in his business life after completing a three-day course. But Mr Allnutt aged 30, is sure he is on to a winner.

"I am a gambling man. I believe the course will enhance a business executive's performance which can be measured in terms of turnover, sales, profits or savings made," he says.

His own performance, and that of his company, Rutter-Allnutt Management Services, has improved by 43 per cent since last September when he started practising himself the principles he is now offering to the business community at large.

The course, run in a secluded hotel in the Cotswolds, is based on the principle that it is no good finding techniques to improve the monetary targets an executive sets himself, but to improve executives themselves.

This is to be achieved by giving them a sense of well-being, free from the symptoms of our time such as stress, lethargy and apathy induced by the harnessments of the business world.

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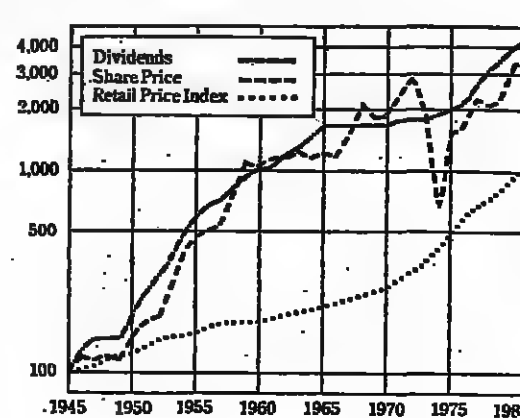
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Our objective continues to be the provision of the best possible international portfolio. At the end of the year half the portfolio was invested overseas.

Over 20 per cent was invested in unquoted shares.

The 1981 Annual Report sets out in full our investments, our strategy, and our long term record. It has been prepared specifically with private investors in mind.



To: Stewart Fund Managers Limited,  
45, Charlotte Square, Edinburgh EH2 4HW.

Please send me a copy of Scottish American's 1981 Annual Report.

NAME

ADDRESS

The Scottish American Investment Co. PLC.



## FAMILY MONEY

## Which unit trusts to go for, and why

In the face of falling interest rates — bank deposit rates came down 1 per cent on Wednesday — it is tempting for fixed interest investors to start looking around for greener pastures.

Unit Trust Association figures indicate that unit trust investors have done better over the past five years than building society investors, though in some instances by such a small margin you would be forgiven for taking the view that the improved return was not worth the much greater risk. The table shows the current value of £1,000 invested in the median unit trust in various sectors over five, ten and fifteen years. The median trust is the one which comes exactly half way in performance terms between the top of the table and the bottom. It is therefore not necessarily a clear indicator of how the average unit trust investor has fared.

What the table reveals is the importance of timing in equity investments. "Not the UK equity market, which I think is running ahead too fast," she says. "We think Japan is expensive though the yen may still have some way to go and although the US market is cheap, it may still have some way to fall."

Having chosen the sector, the next problem is which trusts to buy. There is no shortage of advice — fund managers, stockbrokers, insurance brokers, investment advisers and unit trust advisers will all make recommendations.

A useful chart survey had just been produced covering all unit trusts launched since 1971, analysing which funds within a sector have consistently outperformed, or underperformed, relative to a sector index. It is aimed at the professional adviser but if you can get hold of a copy it provides useful indicators on how to avoid the real losers, if not pointing out the winners.

The survey is called, Fund Monitor and is available by subscription at £105 for four quarterly issues, or £35 for a single issue, from Fund Monitor, Whitehall, Chapel Street, Exning, Newmarket CB8 7HB.

## UNIT TRUST PERFORMANCE

	Current Value of £1,000 invested	5 years	10 years	15 years
Median Fund				
General	2,102	2,036	4,473	
Growth	2,108	1,931	3,550	
Income	1,867	2,221	4,293	
N. American	1,595	1,469	2,499	
Far Eastern	2,050	2,912	4,679	
European	1,453	1,514	2,614	
International	1,818	2,015	3,398	
Commodity & Energy	2,339	2,715	4,687	
Financial & Property	2,239	2,715	4,687	
Investment Trust Units	2,000	1,678	3,702	
Preference Share Units	1,305	1,374	1,465	
Gift	1,270			
Building Society	1,498	2,078	2,842	

\*net income reinvested.  
Source: Unit Trust Association

## First National Securities Base rate

First National Securities Limited announces that with effect from 1st March 1982 its base rate for lending will be reduced to 16½%.

First National Securities Ltd., First National House, College Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 1FB. Telephone: 01-861 1313.

## THE UNITED STATES AND GENERAL TRUST CORPORATION P.L.C.

The Ninety-Second Annual General Meeting of The United States and General Trust Corporation P.L.C. will be held on March 25th in London.

The following is comment by the Chairman, Mr C. K. R. Nuttall, included in the Report of the Directors which has been circulated to shareholders:

In 1980, when sterling was strong, the emphasis on the U.K. market in the company's portfolio was beneficial. The reverse was true in 1981, when sterling weakened against other major currencies. Net asset value rose by 9.4 per cent, compared with rises of 7.2 per cent in the F.T. Actuaries All-Share Index, 12.9 per cent in the Standard & Poor's Composite Index of U.S. stocks and 34.5 per cent in the Tokyo New Stock Exchange Index (the last two indices are adjusted for changes in exchange rates). Net revenue available for ordinary shareholders rose by 5.0 per cent, compared with a rise of almost 19 per cent in 1980, but your Board sees no strong reason for retaining any of that revenue this year and are recommending a final dividend of 7.50p per share, making 11.50p for the year, 9.5 per cent higher than the 10.50p paid for 1980.

Shareholders were informed in December of certain proposals involving a merger with two other investment trust companies and a change of policy to specialise in the U.K. stock market. These proposals will not now be implemented. However, further discussions are taking place with some major shareholders, in order to review how best your Company can respond to the current needs of investors.



Mr James Haswell, Insurance Ombudsman

## Tales of woe for the ombudsman

More than 1,500 insurance policyholders have been in touch with the Insurance Ombudsman during the first nine months of his existence, complaining about everything from unsettled household insurance claims to inability to get response at all from their insurance company.

Among the problems dealt with by the ombudsman are disputes over the pre-accident value of a crashed car, whether a ceramic glass cooker hob was covered by a household contents policy, and advice that damage to a house caused by a dog's teeth is not "impact damage".

Predictably household buildings and contents policies provoked the biggest number of inquiries closely followed by motor insurance disputes. But of the 1,500 odd inquiries, only 441 concerned the 44 member companies of the Ombudsman's Bureau. Complaints made against other companies are outside his jurisdiction, though a letter from the ombudsman always contains specific advice on where to go for help.

However, the fact that so many complaints fall outside his jurisdiction clearly illustrates the need for an industry-wide service — if necessary with statutory teeth. The Life Offices Association has recommended its members to join either the Ombudsman Bureau or the rival organisation, PIAS, Personal Insurance Arbitration Service.

But anyone with a complaint against an insurance company would do well to think twice before approaching PIAS. A policyholder who wants a dispute heard by PIAS, first has to obtain the consent of the insurance company (not a very satisfactory state of affairs). If the insurer agrees to go to arbitration, the policyholder has to agree to be bound by the arbitrator's decision and forfeits any right to pursue his case through the courts.

Policyholders who consult the Ombudsman are under no such constraint, can consult him freely and are not bound to accept his decision (though most do). If you have a complaint which has not been dealt with satisfactorily by your insurance company (and always try writing to the chief executive first) you can contact the ombudsman at The Insurance Ombudsman Bureau, 31 Southampton Row, London WC1B 5JL.

The basic principles laid down in the Revenue's annual income tax return are published as an extra-statutory concession. But, as the table shows, the income tax bands have changed no less than four times, in 1974, 1977, 1979 and 1981. A significant relaxation took place in 1979 when the investment income restriction was abolished. It has not been reintroduced.

Over the years, the table of income bands has become a "blatant instrument". There are now five bands within which some degree of remission is available in place of the two introduced in 1971. From March 20, 1981 there has also been an important concession for older taxpayers.

The gross income limits in each band are increased by £2,000 where, at the date of notification of the arrears, the taxpayer was at least 65 years-old, or in receipt of a state retirement or widow's pension.

Remission is available only where there has been substantial delay on the Revenue's part. In practice, it is important to note that the onus is still fairly and squarely on the taxpayer to supply the information in the first place, and he must "reasonably believe" his affairs are in order.

Remission applies where arrears of tax are discovered on or after July 14, 1971. The onus is still fairly and squarely on the taxpayer to supply the information in the first place, and he must "reasonably believe" his affairs are in order.

## PERCENTAGE REMISSION OF TAX AT VARYING INCOME LEVELS

	14.7.71-1.7.74	2.7.74-29.3.77	30.3.77-8.11.79	9.11.79-19.3.81	20.3.81-
100%	0-1,499	0-1,999	0-2,999	0-3,999	0-6,000
75%	1,500-2,999	2,000-3,999	3,000-4,999	4,000-5,999	6,001-9,000
50%				6,000-7,999	8,001-10,000
25%				8,000-9,999	10,001-12,500
10%				10,000-12,500	12,501-17,500
0%				12,500-17,500	17,501-
* subject to an investment income limit of—	250	325	500		

\* The income limits in this column are increased by £2,000 where the taxpayer is 65 or over, or in receipt of a state retirement or widow's pension at the date of notification.  
The percentage remission is calculated on the basis of the income thresholds operating in the year in which the underpayment of tax was notified.

## Alliance extra interest to woo the customer

Alliance Building Society is the latest to offer improved terms on its "extra interest" account. Hardly a day passes without either a bank or building society offering some new incentive to entice customers across the threshold.

From March 1, Alliance is increasing the differential over the ordinary share rate offered on its "extra interest" account. It used to be 1.25 per cent above the ordinary share rate (currently 9.75 per cent but likely to come down in March) but from next month it will rise to 1.5 per cent above the ordinary share rate giving a return at current rates of 11.25 per cent, basic rate tax paid.

Alliance is also improving the withdrawal facility making money available on two months' notice instead of three, and there is no loss of interest or penalty if the requisite notice is given. Alternatively money can be withdrawn instantly with two months' loss of interest on the amount withdrawn.

This move by Alliance is no doubt intended to head off any possibility of mass withdrawals when the now inevitable cut in both investment and savings rates is announced by the building societies on March 12.

Halifax is also working on improvements to its "extra interest account" and will be revealing details on Monday. Improvements are likely to be along similar lines to those announced by the Alliance.

It is not hard to see why the societies are fighting so fiercely to hang on to their customers. National Savings

has been a powerful force in the savings market, and the banks have been poaching borrowing customers left, right and centre.

National Westminster Bank announced this week a cut in its mortgage rate from 15 per cent to 14.5 per cent, making its home loans the cheapest on offer.

On the mortgage front the building societies have retaliated offering 100 per cent loans. Bristol and West is prepared to lend 100 per cent of the purchase price to first-time buyers who are in regular employment and with what Bristol and West euphemistically describe as "prospects of advancement". And this week London and Manchester Assurance launched a scheme offering top-up loans in conjunction with a building society loan up to 100 per cent of purchase price.

There is, however, a catch with the London and Manchester scheme. The top-up loan is at a fixed rate of 16.5 per cent and must be linked to a non-provisional endowment (generally one of the worst buys in the insurance world). In addition the main building society loan has to be linked to a London and Manchester "low-cost" or full endowment policy.

But the coup of the week was pulled off by Leicester Building Society which has just piped the Abbey National at the post with a new cheque book facility. Some time in May or June this year, how long the other societies can afford to stand aloof remains to be seen.

Lorna Bourke

## Cashing in on foreign currencies

Foreign exchange markets are feeling thoroughly shaken. Judging where to put cash in the hope of making a capital gain is an act nearer gambling than usual.

"At least if you put your money in dollars there is a good yield. So, if the currency is not higher when you get out, at least you will have gained something," said one foreign exchange dealer, struggling to be helpful.

The odds are on the dollar being the strongest currency while United States interest rates are thought to be on an upward trend. That, on the other hand, is a difficult matter to determine. Paul Volcker, who as chairman of the Federal Reserve Board is in charge of interest rates, is running a tighter monetary

policy than Mrs Thatcher ever tried. Rates follow the magic of money supply. Figures on money supply range up to \$150 billion the actual out-turn. At the same time the big corporations need to raise funds.

The Japanese adamantly refuse to raise their interest rates, because they want to give a boost to consumer spending and economic growth at home. The gap between Japanese and United States interest rates is 9 per cent.

And sterling? Still supported by high interest rates — only 1 per cent below those for the dollars in the Euro market. All in all currency speculation should carry a financial health warning.

## The best bet for savers

Following the 0.5 per cent cut in banks' base rate, National Savings wasted no time in cutting the rate offered on National Savings Bank Investment Account. NSB has been paying 15 per cent, due to go down to 14 per cent on March 1 and from April 1 the rate paid will be further reduced to 13.5 per cent.

For all but the non-taxpayer, this makes a building society extra interest account, currently showing a return of around 10.75 per cent basic rate tax paid, by far the most attractive proposition.

However, the societies will be reducing their rates when the Building Societies Association meets on March 12 to decide on a new structure. One per cent (possibly more) off the mortgage rate is a virtual certainty, but there is likely to be hot debate in the council meeting over where the investment rate ought to be fixed.

With a 14 per cent mortgage rate, the probable investment rate, in the days when the building societies' cartel was still effective, would have been 8.75 or 9 per cent. But with most societies paying 1 per cent more on extra interest accounts, there is a powerful feeling among some building society men that the ordinary share rate should be no more than 8.5 per cent.

"TO ERR IS HUMAN" — BUT OF COURSE, WE DON'T FALL INTO THAT CATEGORY, DO WE...?



INLAND REVENUE

not normally given where the Revenue has acted on information within 12 months (or, in cases involving PAYE, by the end of the tax year following the one in which the information was provided).

Any taxpayer who thinks he may be entitled to know which of the five columns in the table is relevant. This used to depend on the date of notification (to the taxpayer or his agent) that the taxpayer was liable for remission. But from March 20, 1981 there has been a minor change of practice, and one now looks at the date of notification of the arrears. Check your "date of notification" and you should be able to identify the column that applies to you.

It makes no difference when the arrears arose, provided that the basic condition of substantial Revenue delay is met.

The "gross income" is strictly that of the tax year in which the date of notification falls, but for practical reasons the income of the preceding year is normally used unless a fall in the level of the taxpayer's income is expected — for instance, on retirement.

"Gross income" is not necessarily the same as income assessable for tax purposes. It is arrived at by means of a special calculation which permits only certain specific deductions. The normal procedure is for the taxpayer to write to the taxpayer setting out the arrears that have come to light, and the amount of remission he considers to be due. He will also consider any representations made by the taxpayer.

But if the taxpayer still feels that he hasn't had a fair hearing, it is always open to him to draw the matter to the attention of his MP.

Michael Koppel

## Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	13½%
Barclays	13½%
BCCI	14%
Consolidated Crds	14%
C. Hoare & Co	13½%
Lloyds Bank	13½%
Midland Bank	13½%
Nat Westminster	13½%
TSB	13½%
Williams & Glyn's	13½%

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited  
27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212

The Over-the-Counter Market

1981/82	High	Low	Company	Price Ch'ge	Gross Div (%)	Yld %	P/E Actual	P/E Target
124	100	90	ABN Rides 10% CULS	124	—	10.0	8.1	—
75	62	50	Aicrop Group	70	—	4.7	6.7	11.1
51	33	20	Armstrong & Rhodes	45	—	4.3	9.6	3.8
205	187	160	Bardon Hill	200	-1	9.7	4.9	9.7
104	69	50	Deborah Services	69	-1	6.0	8.7	3.3
131	97	80	Frank Horsell	131	—	6.4	4.9	11.8
83	39	30	Frederick Parker	83	—	6.4	7.7	4.2
78	46	30	George Blair	52	+1	—	—	—
102	93	70	Ind. Prof. Castings	95	—	7.3	7.7	6.8
106	100	80	Isis Cont Preet	106	—	15.7	14.8	—
113	94	70	Johns Cony	97	+1	7.0	7.2	3.1
130	108	80	James Burroughs	112	—	8.7	7.8	8.2
334	250	200	Robert Jenkins	250	—	31.3	12.5	3.5
60	51	40	Scruttons "A"	60	+1	5.3	8.8	9.2
222	160	140	Torday & Carlisle	160	—	10.7	6.7	5.1
15	10	8	Twinkl 15% ULS	78	—	15.0	19.2	—
80	56	40	Twinkl 15% ULS	78	—	3.0	12.0	4.5
44	25	20	Unilock Holdings	25	—	6.4	8.4	5.0
183	73	60	Walter Alexander	72	—	13.1	5.7	4.3
263	212	170	W. S. Yeates	228	—	—	—	—

Prices now available on Prestel page 48146

## MONEY TALK

## Investors in record bonus

Residents of the North East of England are to be guinea pigs for a new recruitment launched Nationwide Building Society. First time investors current account holders of the society who deposit £5 or more are being offered a choice of special compilation recordings generally available from Tellydive, direct sales organizations whose ads are impossible to miss on television.

The promotion will be launched on March 1 and offer will be available in branches of Nationwide in the North East of England possibly extending to other areas at a later date if the scheme is successful.

Up in flames  
Property worth an estimated £34.7m went up in flames during January alone with four fires costing over £1m each. The largest, estimated at £3.5m, was at an army depot in the Midlands.

During the month there were 75 fires costing more than £50,000 of which 23 were in places used by the public, such as cinemas, schools, shops, social clubs and theatres.

Prices static  
Latest figures show that average house prices rose by only 0.8 per cent during 1981. The 1980 average house price was £27,807 which went up to £28,810 by the end of 1981, though there are considerable regional variations. This compares with house price rises of 17.1, 29.1 and 15.5 per cent in 1978, '79 and '80 respectively.

Mint on trial  
This week the Royal Mint went on ceremonial annual trial in Goldsmiths' Hall. The trial is a long-awaited occasion where, by law, the size, weight and purity of British gold, silver and cupro-nickel coins made by the Royal Mint are tested. The FYC is a sealed chest in which the sample coins are placed and, at the week's end, the 700th anniversary of the ceremony, the Queen was present at the proceedings.

Transplacement  
Firms are increasingly finding that staff may turn down transfers to other areas even if it involves promotion because the spouse does not want to leave his or her career. "Transplacement" is the American response to this reluctance to move, explains an article in this month's International Management.

Companies are offering counselling to spouses, using consultants who offer transplacement services and, in some cases, even employing the spouse themselves. Transplacement is largely confined to America but, as the same problems exist here, English companies should also perhaps be thinking along these lines, says the article.

Rock finals  
The National Final of the TSB Rock School Competition will take place in Manchester on March 26. Four pop celebrities will have the difficult task of judging the young bands competing for prizes totalling £4,000 and £1,000 worth of musical equipment to be donated to the winning school. The Final is between eight regional finalists and after last year's success, the TSB can expect a large audience of enthusiastic supporters.

Radio one disc jockey Mike Read who will compete the TSB Rock School Competition.



Radio one disc jockey Mike Read who will compete the TSB Rock School Competition.







# Royal Vulcan set for Placepot on way to Cheltenham jackpot

By Michael Phillips, Racing Correspondent

With the National Hunt Festival no longer a speck on the horizon we will be looking for hints at Kempton Park today that could prove prophetic for Cheltenham next month. The Tote Placepot Hurdle, the Tote Pattern Steeplechase and the Rendisham Hurdle are the races that seem likely to provide them.

Royal Vulcan, a selection for the Placepot Hurdle, is the ante-post favourite for the Triumph Hurdle, which is the big race for four-year-olds at Cheltenham. Betting on the outcome of the Sun Alliance Steeplechase does not begin nearly so early, but when it does Seamus O'Flynn is a name that is bound to be prominent, especially if he manages to win the Pattern Steeplechase this afternoon.

No one in their right mind would back Derrin Rose to win any race these days, let alone the Champion Hurdle, because as his record shows he is every Royal likely to dig in his toes and refuse to race as he is to win.

To remain favourite for the Triumph Hurdle, Seamus O'Flynn must first beat Lulay, Morice, Bustono and Tiger Whale this afternoon. This I think he will do, Royal Vulcan first struck me as a potential Triumph winner when John Francome brought him swooping on Krag to score over today's course and distance in November.

Nothing has happened in the meantime to make me change my mind. On the contrary, Royal Vulcan's next visit to Kempton at the beginning of December simply confirmed the impression of excellence.

Neville Callaghan, told me that his horse was exceptionally well after his midwinter break and that Francome, who rode him at Kempton, was keen to ride him in the Triumph as well as this afternoon.

Callaghan went on to say that he would be disappointed if Royal Vulcan did not run "a hell

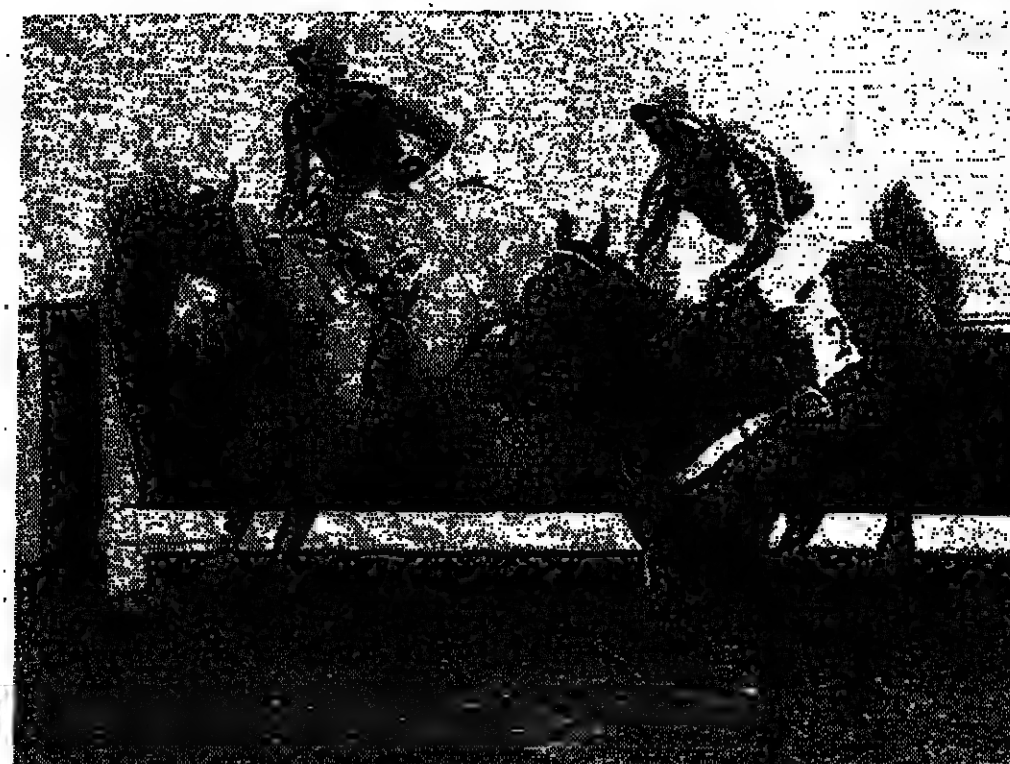
# Winter's passport to disaster

By Michael Seely

Rolls Rumber, who was to have had his Grand National preliminary in the Giltspur River, Hunter Chase at Kempton Park yesterday was not allowed to run because of an irregularity in his passport. This was in contravention of the Rules of Racing concerning immunities against influenza. Rule 35 states that after a horse's two preliminary injections a booster must be given within 14 months. In 1975, when trained by Arthur Stammers, Rolls Rumber was given his third jab six days late. Consequently all subsequent immunities have been invalid. The oversight occurred because the rule was only changed a period of three weeks would elapse before the next. As no animal is allowed to run for 10 days after any inoculation, Rolls Rumber was only able to clear four days before the big race. And as Fred Winter pointed out it would be unfair for Almore's formidable fences to confront any horse who had not seen a racecourse for nearly two years. It is all a great shame as Rolls Rumber had an undeniable chance, having been unbeaten in five outings a couple of seasons ago.

Despite the absence of Rolls Rumber the hunter-chase still gave us the thrill of the afternoon. Those who like backing odds-on favourites must have felt like jumping in the winners enclosure after Sparrow Missile's half brother, Cruise Missile, had sprinted away from Princeton on the run in at the Otago Cognac Steeplechase. Sparrow Missile was now regarded as a live contender for only the two novice chases at Cheltenham.

Mr Thorne had good news about Sparrow Missile, who finished second to the winner, the National. After various treatments to his injured leg Sparrow Missile was confined to his box for three months, but he is now turned out in a field and is thoroughly enjoying life. Mr



Cruise Missile, after a successful lift-off at the last, takes a giant step to victory.

never thought they would come back to me."

Animals are the backbone of National Hunt racing. And it was good to see John Thorne in the winners enclosure after Sparrow Missile's half brother, Cruise Missile, had sprinted away from Princeton on the run in at the Otago Cognac Steeplechase. Sparrow Missile was now regarded as a live contender for only the two novice chases at Cheltenham.

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Thorne broke a leg in a riding accident last November.

The injured 55-year-old Jockey Club member is now well on the road to recovery, but as he said: "It is a good job I am not 100 per cent fit or I would have been tempted to get Sparrow Missile ready for the Horse and Hound Cup at Stratford. As it is he will probably be all the better for his rest next season. After all he will only be the same age as Aldinetti was last year. Cruise Missile was last year's second leg of a double. Half an hour earlier the jockey had also won the Littleton Novices Handicap over Red Field."

Captain Lemos went on to say that his latest acquisition would not affect his own racing plans and that his 40 horses in training in Newmarket would remain at Carburg in the care of Clive Brittain.

Apparently he sold Carburg to Britain a year ago. Frank Durr, who has trained at Fitzroy House for the past three seasons, has now moved to the new premises of its type in the land.

Christopher Stephenson who is a specialist in the field of stud and racing practices.

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# Broome's last chance to add to car collection

David Broome, who has won six Lancia cars in the past seven years, can add to his collection when he starts favourite at the Lancia Trophy show jumping competition at Park Farm, Middlesex, today.

The car, worth £7,500, goes to the rider with the highest combined points total in two events — the trophy and the silver lance. Broome has some of his best horses qualified in both.

Broome, who is 42, missed out in 1976 after winning for the first time the previous year. If he is still short of the odd vehicle or so, now is the time to make his move for a replacement as the sponsors are pulling out after ten years.

"It is all very sad," Raymond Brooks-Ward, the managing director of British Equestrian Promotions, said. "But we can only thank David for their tremendous support for show jumping."

The Lancia Trophy also carries a first prize of £1,400 and Broome, who has twice won the individual title (in 1975 and 1979), can make it a treble with Ross, last season's winner of the King George V Gold Cup. But the opposition will be severe, not only from riders like Harvey Smith, Malcolm Pyrah and Caroline Bradley, but talented youngsters like 19-year-old Lesley McNaught, the top-rated junior champion.

Miss McNaught, the Warwickshire protégée of Ted Edgar has qualified five horses throughout the season, although under the rules she can only ride three of them. She has selected Whato, One More Time, and the sure-footed FMS Barrow.

Nick Skelton and Graham Fletcher, who have both given up a chance of a gold medal in 1984 Olympic Games by relinquishing their amateur status during the week are also competing. Skelton the 1978 trophy winner, has another chance with Carat.



Broome... winner of six Lancias

# Ball is in Palace's court

Not until the last baskets of the National League season have been sunk tomorrow, but Palace are the winners of the first division likely to be known.

The title destiny is Crystal Palace's, that much is sure, but little else is in the closest ever finish to the league season, which must be just what the Eagles' Basketball Association wanted for selling the sport to Channel Four for a live evening's viewing every week from November.

The two clubs are level on points, having both lost two games — one to each other — but Palace are ahead, having scored five more points in the games between. So if Palace win their last two games at Whitehead Manchester tonight and at John Carr Doncaster they will take their sixth title, no matter what Sunderland, tonight, and at TCB Brighton tomorrow, do.

On paper the two contenders have one easy game and one hard one. Palace should beat Manchester and Solent should beat Doncaster. But Palace, still smarting from Wednesday's 69-67 defeat at Palace, their coach Morris Wordsworth, accused the referees "of not being competent enough to handle such an important fixture".

The Yorkshire club will be relaxed, having already qualified for next month's National Championship Play-offs at Wembley. Palace will still without Roma, who has hepatitis.

Solent's fear must be that Sunderland need to win what is their last game to have a chance of defending their title at Wembley, having surprisingly lost 83-76 to Team Talbot Guildford in overtime on Thursday. If Sunderland fail, last season's league champions, Fleet, Birmingham, will take their place at Wembley as long as they overcome their earlier league defeat by Guildford at the Aston Villa Sports Centre tonight.

# SKIING

Whistler Mountain, Canada, Feb. 26 — Bad weather is threatening the men's downhill which is due to launch the North American Cup stage of the alpine skiing World Cup here tomorrow. Heavy snow brought bad visibility to the training runs which were abandoned by Dave Irwin, Canadian, whose unusually high position was largely due to him having a late run.

Irwin, 28, started in twentieth position while the narrowly better yesterday with four of their downhill specialists achieving places in the top ten.

Leading skiers have been critical of the course and the Austrian world champion, Heini Weirather, complained: "I should have brought my cross-country gear. This isn't really a downhill race. It's too easy even for a woman's downhill." In the bad visibility, none of the favourites were able to take chances in training. Steve Podkorski was almost half a second down on Irwin while Weirather trailed by more than three seconds.

The Austrian, twenty points adrift of Podkorski in the title race, said: "If I don't finish among the first three in Whistler, the cup will be Podkorski's and he'll thoroughly deserve it."

The season-long battle between West Germany's Irene Epple and Switzerland's Erika Hutter moves to North America for a World Cup women's giant slalom race tomorrow at Aspen Mountain, Colorado. Miss Epple, 24, has won three giant slalom titles this season, and with another victory she would secure the giant slalom title.

Norway won the 90 metres hill jumping team event in another close finish today and equalled its all-time record of seven gold medals in these fiercely contested championships. But Risha Smetanina, the Soviet Union's star, took part in the jumping in 1920s and was recently awarded the gold medal of the Olympic Order by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for his lifelong services to sport. King Olav V was joined by another ski enthusiast for the last three days of the competitions here, King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden.

The wind affected the women's race with snow blowing off the trees and slowing the track. Miss Smetanina won the 60m 19.95sec. Miss Rulli was second in the 10m 20.3sec and Erika Hutter of Finland.

Women's 20m Cross-Country: 1. R. Smetanina (USSR) 19.95sec. 2. E. Hutter (Finland) 20.3sec. 3. J. Smetanina (USSR) 20.35sec. 4. C. Costa (Italy) 20.45sec. 5. J. Smetanina (USSR) 20.55sec. 6. J. Smetanina (USSR) 20.65sec. 7. J. Smetanina (USSR) 20.75sec. 8. J. Smetanina (USSR) 20.85sec. 9. J. Smetanina (USSR) 20.95sec. 10. J. Smetanina (USSR) 21.05sec.

# SKIING CONDITIONS

	Depth (cm)	Plate	Conditions	Runs to rest	Weather (5 pm)	°C
Crans-Montana	100 150	Good	Plate Powder	Good	Fine	+4
New snow on good base	140 200	—	—	—	Fine	-3
Excellent skiing	160 395	—	—	—	Fine	-6
Kitzbühel	100 130	Good	Powder	Good	Fair	-8
Niederau	70 230	Good	Good	Good	Cloud	+3
Good skiing on and off piste	80 100	Good	Varied	Fair	Fine	-6
Sauze d'Oulx	20 75	Varied	Varied	Fair	Fine	+3
South-facing slopes icy	80 280	Good	Good	Good	Fine	-2
New snow on hard base	30 140	Good	Powder	Good	Fair	-1
Plates in good condition	40 130	Good	Powder	Good	Fine	-6
Marvellous skiing everywhere						

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes. The following reports have been received from other sources:

Depth	Style	Weather
L / U	Plate	°C
150	Good	-7
100	Good	-10
110	Hard	-8
100	Hard	-7
70	Hard	-2
70	Good	-8
135	Good	-4

hard-packed snow, vertical runs 1,400 feet, across broad cleaver, snow level 2,200 feet. Glencorrie. Main runs, a few complete left narrow, all others broken, new snow on a few tracks; lower slopes, limited narrow areas, new snow vertical runs 1,000 feet, across middle cleaver, snow level 2,000 feet. Glencoe. Main runs, all complete, new snow drifting, lower slopes, all complete, wet snow on a few tracks; vertical runs 1,500 feet, across roads clear, snow level 2,200 feet. Leckie. Main runs, all complete, new snow on a few tracks, lower slopes, all high-level runs complete, all others broken, new snow lower slopes, limited narrow areas, snow level 2,200 feet. Leckie. Main runs, all complete, new snow on a few tracks, lower slopes, all high-level runs complete, all others broken, new snow lower slopes, limited narrow areas, snow level 2,200 feet.

# Kempton Park

Tote double: 2.30 & 3.30. Treble: 2.0, 3.0 & 4.0.  
[Television (TV): 1.30, 2.0 & 2.30]

1.30 FOOD BROTHERS HURDLE (Novices: £2,813; 2m) (7 runners)

101 24100 DASHMAN (D) (Sheik Fahad) F Winter 7-1-3 P. Scudmore  
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**Edited by Peter Davaile**

BBC 2

ITV/LONDON

**Radio 4**

**Radio 1**

5.00 An Radio 2. 7.00 Playroom.  
8.00 Tony Scott. 10.00 Peter  
Powell. 12.00 M1. 12. 1.00 Adrian  
Juster. 2.00 A King in New York. 2.05  
Paul Gambaccini. 4.00 Walters'.  
Weekly. 5.00 Road. On. 8.30 in  
Concert. 7.30 Close.

**WORLD SERVICE**

BBC World Service on the continent

Noradcast, 7.00 World News, 7.00 News  
About Britain, 7.15 From the Weeklies, 7.20  
Music for the Harpichord, 7.45 Network UK,  
8.00 World News, 8.09 Reflections, 8.15  
Peoples' Choice, 8.30 Rhythm in Roots,  
9.00 World News, 9.09 Review of the British  
Press, 9.15 The World Today, 9.30 Financial  
News, 9.40 Look Ahead, 9.45 Science in  
Action, 10.15 About Britain, 10.30 Thirty  
Minute Theatre, 11.00 World News, 11.09  
News About Britain, 11.15 New Kees, 11.25  
The West in Wales, 11.50 Meridian, 12.00

12.25 Sports Roundup, 13.00 World News.  
1.08 Commentary, 1.15 Network UK, 1.30  
Olympic Gallery, 1.45 Strictly Instrumental  
2.15 The Instrument Makers, 2.30 Rhythm 'n'  
Roots, 3.00 Radio Newsweek, 3.15 Saturday  
Special, 4.00 World News, 4.08 Commentary,  
4.15 Saturday Special, 5.00 News Summary,  
5.02 Saturday Special, 6.00 World News,  
5.08 Commentary, 6.15 Good People, 6.15  
Twentieth Century Folk, 9.30 People and  
Politics, 10.00 World News, 10.08 From Our  
Own Correspondent, 10.30 New Ideas, 10.40

Letterbox, 11.30 Meridian, 12.00 World  
News, 12.05 News About Britain, 12.15  
Radio Newsworld, 12.30 Play of the Week,  
1.45 Development, 2.00 World News, 2.05  
Review of the British Press, 2.15 Good  
Books, 2.30 Sports Review, 3.00 World  
News, 3.05 News About Britain, 3.15 From  
Our Own Correspondent, 3.30 Rhythms 'n'  
Roots, 4.05 Newswatch, 5.45 Letter From  
America.

**ANGLIA**

**Street, 10.00-10.30 Sport Billy,  
5.15pm-5.45 Mr Martin, 7.45-8.45  
Magnum, 12.20am At the End of the  
Day.**

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**CENTRAL**

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**As London except: Starts 9.05 am  
Paint Along with Nancy, 9.30-10.30  
Sesame Street, 5.15 pm-5.45 Mr**

**TYNE TEES**

As London except: Starts 9.00 am  
Cartoon Time, 9.10 Sport Bitty, 9.40-  
10.30 Thunderbirds, 12.13 pm-12.15  
News, 5.15 News, 5.17-5.45 Mr  
Merlin, 7.45-8.45 Magnum, 12.20 am  
Three's Company, 12.30 Closedown.

As London except: Starts 9.00 am-10.30 Film; Nor the Moon by Night\* (Belinda Lee, Michael Craig). Woman flies out to Africa to marry a game warden but falls in love with his brother. 5.15 pm-5.45 Mr Merlin. 7.45-8.45 Magnum. 12.20 am Closedown.

As London except: Starts 9.00am  
Sesame Street, 10.00-10.30 Joe 80,  
5.15pm-5.45 Mr Martin, 7.45-8.45  
Magnum, 12.20am Reflections, 12.25  
Closedown.

**Radio 1**  
 8.00 are Tony Blackburn, 10.00 Noel  
 Edmunds, 1.00pm Jimmy Saville.  
 3.00 Studio B15. 5.00 Top 40. † 7.00  
 The Record Producers. † 8.00 Sounds  
 of Jazz. † 10.00 Close.

BBC World Service can be received in Western Europe on medium wave 649kHz (453m) at the following times GMT: 6.00 am Newswatch, 7.00 World News, 7.08 News About Britain, 7.15 From Our Own Correspondent, 7.30 Classical Record Review, 7.45 The End of the Affair, 8.00 World News, 8.08 Reflections, 8.15 The Pleasure's Yours, 8.00 World News, 8.08 Review of the British Press, 9.15 People and Politics, 9.45 Sports Review, 10.15, Twentieth Century Folk, 10.30 Sunday

ADDER "Brilliant," 1-11-78 Loses "10 PM World Kds.  
11.25 The Week in News, 11.50 Play of the  
Week, 12.25 Marching and Watzung, 1.00  
World News, 1.00 Commentary, 1.15 Good  
Books, 1.30 Short Story, 1.45 The Sandi  
Jones Request Show, 2.30 Smash of the  
Day: The Navy Lark, 3.00 Radio Newsreel,  
2.15 Concert Hall, 4.00 World News, 4.00  
Commentary, 4.15 From Our Own  
Correspondent, 4.35 Financial Review, 4.45  
Letter From America, 5.00 World News, 5.00  
Meridian, 8.00 World News, 8.00

Science in Action, 10.40 Reflections, 10.45  
 Sportscast, 11.00 World News, 11.00  
 Commentary, 11.15 Letter from America,  
 11.30 Strictly Instrumental, 12.00 World  
 News, 12.05 News About Britain, 12.15  
 Radio Newsweek, 12.30 Religious Service,  
 1.00 The Ages of Man, 1.45 Short Story,  
 2.00 World News, 2.05 Review of the British  
 Press, 2.15 Twentieth Century Folk, 2.30 The  
 Baverly Brooch, 3.00 World News, 3.05  
 News About Britain, 3.15 The Instrument  
 Maker, 3.30 Anything Goes, 4.00

**SCOTTISH**  
As London except: 9.30am Behind the Veil. 10.00-11.00 Sesame Street. 11.30-12.00 Be Your Own Boss. 1.00pm Sunday Religion.

University Challenge. 2.45 Glen Michael Cavalece. 3.30 Incredible Hulk. 4.30 Scooby-Doo with Arthur. 5.30 Monty Python. 6.30 C-22tv6. 6.30 Into the Eighties. 7.30 Late Show. 11.35 New Avengers. 12.30am Closedown.

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**HTV**

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As London comes back. 2.45 C-22tv6.

Own Boss, 1.00pm University  
Challenge, 1.30 West Country  
Farming, 2.00-2.30 Vicky the Viking,  
3.30 Mork and Mindy, 4.00 Behind the  
Veil, 4.30 Cartoon, 4.40-5.30 Film:  
Terror on the 40th Floor (John  
Foraytha) 'Towering Inferno' story.  
7.15-8.15 Hart to Hart, 11.30 Bizarre,  
12.00 Closedown.

**YORKSHIRE**

As London except: starts 9.00am Link.  
9.25 *Our Incredible World*. 9.55-10.00  
Bubbles. 11.00 *Be Your Own Boss*.

Buckle's story, 1.13 University  
 Challenge, 1.45 Calendar, 2.10 New  
 Fred and Barney Show, 2.30 Big  
 Game, 3.30-4.00 Stingray, 4.30-6.30  
 Film: Molly Maguires (Richard Harris,  
 Sean Connery). Secret organization of  
 US miners create unrest in protest  
 against brutal conditions, 7.15-8.15  
 Hart to Hart, 11.30 Great Depression:  
 Germany, 12.30am Five Minutes,  
 43.15 (Continued)





**Sellick, while I finished the exhausting journey bare footed, my boots sucked from my feet by the mud.**

**"Speed is the thing. You have got to keep moving or you will sink. And you have got to move quickly when you are out there because when the tide starts to come back in, it moves very fast indeed," said Mr Sellick, the father of six daughters and a son he hopes will continue the mud horse tradition.**

## Craig Seton

Jonathan Wills

1.58	4.6	2.49	4.7	Liverpool	2.203	2.58	12.41
1.59	4.8	2.49	4.7	Manila	2.20	2.58	12.41
1.59	4.8	2.49	4.7	Milford Haven	9.07	7.0	9.25
1.59	4.8	2.49	4.7	Newquay	8.30	7.5	9.16
1.59	4.8	2.49	4.7	Osaka	8.9	8.9	9.36
1.59	4.8	2.49	4.7	Perth	7.34	5.5	7.58
1.59	4.8	2.49	4.7	Portland	1.45	2.0	10.99
1.59	4.8	2.49	4.7	Portsmouth	9.14	2.37	9.27
1.59	4.8	2.49	4.7	Sheffield	9.50	6.0	2.09
1.59	4.8	2.49	4.7	Southampton	9.07	5.6	1.42
1.59	4.8	2.49	4.7	Sunderland	9.07	5.4	1.42
1.59	4.8	2.49	4.7	Tees	6.32	5.1	4.6
1.59	4.8	2.49	4.7	Walston	2.18	4.2	2.47

Time measurement in metres: 1m=3.20881h

## Abroad

MIDWAY: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; sm, snow.							
C	F	C	F	C	F	C	F
1.58	4.6	2.49	4.7	Madrid	c 13.55	Sabing	sm
1.58	4.6	2.49	4.7	Malaga	c 13.55	San Paulo	sm
1.58	4.6	2.49	4.7	Malta	c 13.55	San Francisco	sm
1.58	4.6	2.49	4.7	Miami	c 13.55	Singapore	sm
1.58	4.6	2.49	4.7	Manila	c 13.55	Stockholm	sm
1.58	4.6	2.49	4.7	Montreal	c 13.55	Sydney	sm
1.58	4.6	2.49	4.7	Moscow	c 13.55	Tampere	sm
1.58	4.6	2.49	4.7	Munich	c 13.55	Tokyo	sm
1.58	4.6	2.49	4.7	Nairobi	c 13.55	Toronto	sm
1.58	4.6	2.49	4.7	Osaka	c 13.55	Tokyo	sm
1.58	4.6	2.49	4.7	Paris	c 13.55	Valencia	sm
1.58	4.6	2.49	4.7	Perth	c 13.55	Washington	sm
1.58	4.6	2.49	4.7	Portland	c 13.55	Winnipeg	sm
1.58	4.6	2.49	4.7	San Francisco	c 13.55	Yokohama	sm
1.58	4.6	2.49	4.7	Seattle	c 13.55	Zurich	sm
1.58	4.6	2.49	4.7	Shanghai	c 13.55		
1.58	4.6	2.49	4.7	Stockholm	c 13.55		
1.58	4.6	2.49	4.7	Sydney	c 13.55		
1.58	4.6	2.49	4.7	Tampere	c 13.55		
1.58	4.6	2.49	4.7	Tokyo	c 13.55		
1.58	4.6	2.49	4.7	Toronto	c 13.55		
1.58	4.6	2.49	4.7	Tokyo	c 13.55		
1.58	4.6	2.49	4.7	Valencia	c 13.55		
1.58	4.6	2.49	4.7	Washington	c 13.55		
1.58	4.6	2.49	4.7	Winnipeg	c 13.55		
1.58	4.6	2.49	4.7	Yokohama	c 13.55		
1.58	4.6	2.49	4.7	Zurich	c 13.55		

مَكْنَزٌ مِنَ الْأَصْلِ